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NOTES.

The attitude of the Greek Press towards the Sultan's Commission of Reforms in Macedonia must be a revelation to those who persist in denying all rumours of an understanding between the traditional foes. The fact is that the Greeks now realise that their reversion of Turkey in Europe is indefinitely adjourned, and they are only too eager to prevent any rival from profiting by their distraction. Accordingly they point out, very properly, that ethnological considerations stultify the intentions of the Berlin Congress with regard to Macedonia. Besides the rival partisans of Bulgaria, Servia, Roumania and even Greece, all hopelessly internecine, there is an equivalent Moslem population which will fight against any Christian suzerainty. To treat Macedonia as Crete, or Eastern Roumelia, or any other disjecta membra of the Porte have been treated, would be to court chaos. The only possible constitution, if constitution there must be, will be one analogous to that of the Lebanon. And the very whisper of this suggestion must knock many covetous committees on the head.

The affair of the Bulgarian loan seems to point to a little pitted speck threatening to moulder the whole edifice which Prince Ferdinand has so laboriously and triumphantly built up. It is also evidence that with the demission of Gosp. Stoilov, the system of personal government, hitherto so successful, is being loosened. Gosp. Načević has the reputation of being a clever financier, but it was certainly not clever of him to expose the nakedness of his land. The Prince, at any rate, has hitherto contrived to maintain the public opinion that the solvency of Bulgaria was above reproach, and her stock accordingly stood much higher than the situation warranted ; especially in comparison with the scarcely less attractive securities of Servia. Now that the harm has been done, it will be well if the loan be refused, for taxes are still absurdly low in Bulgaria, which, with a little effort, should easily be self-sufficing. The strange thing is that Austria should not have seized the opportunity of weaning the Prince from his Russian tutelage, for now is Russia's opportunity of assuring it. There are no leading-strings so tight as those of a loan from a big State to a small one, as every Balkan statesman must know, unless Greece has been playing the Helot in vain.

The strange personality of Baron Schönerer is well worth watching by all who are interested in the future

of Austria. Though he is far more German than even the German Government of the Dual Monarchy, and has been in prison for actually advocating Prussian dominion, he reflects a sentiment, which, however latent, is widespread. His last theatrical stroke of organising secessions, ten thousand at a time, from the Church of Rome, while naturally exasperating his opponents, emphasises his strength beyond previous belief. It also opens up a new issue. How far Prince Alois Liechtenstein and his friends are correct in identifying the Austrian edifice with Popery, and William II.'s policy with No Popery, is open to debate but deserves attention. In any case, a useful moral is pointed of the opportunist statesmanship of the Vatican, which should secure attention at the next Conclave.

Sapped with inaccuracy as most of the foreign telegrams to our press undoubtedly are, few can probably be found so persistently misleading as those which hail from Morocco. And the worst of it is that their publication plays directly into the hands of our trade rivals, who spare no expedient to trump up pretexts for intervention. It is, therefore, both useful and patriotic to make known, on the authority of our Minister and the most observant English residents at Tangier, that the land of the African Sultan has not for generations been so orderly and well governed as it is to-day ; and that whatever intermittent troubles may arise are directly attributable to the intrigues of certain European Powers. In any case, if ever the Government of Morocco be found wanting, it must be remembered that we have traditional claims to the revendication of Catherine of Braganza's dower, and that the occupants of Gibraltar can tolerate no rivalry or menace across the Strait.

The Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs is perhaps the hardest-worked member of the Government in or out of the Cabinet, for his chief has not to attend the House of Commons, or to speak on platforms. That after a particularly harassing week in the House of Commons Mr. Brodrick should run down to Cambridge and deliver a bright and encouraging speech to the undergraduates shows considerable power of resilience. As usual, the newspapers had exaggerated the Niu-chwang business, which had never amounted to a crisis. There is no necessity for us to be bellicose, we are so strong ; and Russia is so perfectly aware of our strength that her aims for the present are pacific. This is the view of those in the best position for gauging the situation.

It is fortunate for India that the preservation of her sugar industry does not involve any conflict with the English manufacturer or consumer. She has thus been left free to save herself from unfair competition by imposing a countervailing duty on bounty-fed foreign sugar. This measure, moreover, has the approval of the same Secretary of State who once compelled the Indian Government to exempt Manchester goods from its general scheme of taxation. We have got so far in advance as to know that a course of action which is not permissible in the case of Lancashire cotton may be necessary in dealing with Austrian or German sugar. This practical recognition of the duty of the State to its industries is unlikely to stop short at East Indian sugar. The flank of Cobdenism has been turned. It will at least be a pleasing incident in the operation of the new law that Mauritius will also be protected against bounty-fed sugar.

Even the Indian consumer will be little affected by the countervailing duty. To the labourer or peasant refined sugar is practically an unknown luxury. The coarse stuff used by perhaps nine-tenths of the population will not be touched by the duty. The tax, if not paid by the importer, will fall on the well-to-do classes only. The protection of cane cultivation in India is not merely an industrial question. The scheme of agriculture, the rent, the land revenue and the canal rates are all concerned. The agrarian and fiscal disturbance which would follow a sudden blow to all the interests involved gives political importance to the matter. Then there is possibly the awkward point of caste pollution from the animal charcoal used in the refining process. The Government of India has wisely acted before serious complications could arise.

Those who like to moralise on the events of history will find a picturesque incident in the international courtesies which have transferred to Siam the only genuine remains of the Indian sage who gave to the world a religion that, even now, has more followers than Christianity. The identification of Kapilavastu, the birthplace of Buddha, in the Nipal Terai was followed by the discovery of some of the ashes of the great reformer in a *stupa* situated in the British territory close by. The Indian Government decided to present the relics to the only country where Buddhism is the State religion. Accordingly a Royal Commissioner from Siam journeyed to the foot of the Himalayas with two golden pagodas in which the venerated remains were deposited with due ceremony and taken to Siam, where they now gladden the hearts of the devout followers of the Light of Asia.

M. Marchand and his companions have completed, as it would seem without great difficulty, their journey up the Sobat to a point where the influence of Menelik is well established. On 29 January they reached Goré. In 1897 M. de Bonchamps covered the distance from Addis Ababa to Goré in less than six weeks, marching in the rainy season and with an expedition very much inferior in discipline to Marchand's much-travelled Senegalese. The probability therefore is that M. Marchand by this time is at Menelik's capital. He was met at Bouré, three days' march west of Goré, by a relieving expedition of Abyssinians with food and supplies, conducted by three Frenchmen, two of them doctors. This confirms what M. de Bonchamps stated in his report: that Bouré was the limit beyond which the name of Menelik was unknown.

It is clear that between the western limit of Menelik's power and the White Nile there lies a kind of no man's land inhabited by pure negroes. M. Marchand's officers are said to have mapped this country. They have also in all probability made treaties and distributed flags all through it. The *Faidherbe* steamer with its attendant flotilla has been left at the head of the navigable waters of the Sobat, or rather of its affluent, the Baro, in the charge of an Abyssinian officer, the lieutenant of Didjaz Thessama, ruler of that province. It looks very much as if we should find before long France, and possibly Russia, claiming an outlet on the Nile by way of the Sobat. The only thing

which disturbs the mind of French residents in Addis Ababa is a report, circulated in some French papers, of Menelik's supposed infatuation for a little French grisette, because this report has, it appears, reached the ears of Menelik, and (what is more serious) of his consort, and the harmonious relations with all things French are somewhat interrupted.

It was satisfactory to hear from Mr. Chamberlain that at the forthcoming Brussels Conference England will declare that she will levy as high a duty upon spirits sold in West Africa as the Powers choose to impose for all. This will do more than anything else to prevent the demoralisation of native races at the hands of unprincipled traders; it is high time that some such step were taken. It is also right that public moneys should be spent in establishing a "School for Tropical Diseases." The rate of mortality in these newly developed lands is so high that every sinew of science must be strained to arrest it.

We share the indignation of the House at Mr. Labouchere's speech in opposition to the "Hurricane Grant" for the West Indies. It was an exhibition repugnant to everybody. Not only did he undertake to discourse upon a subject with which he is profoundly unacquainted, fortified by figures that he did not care to verify, but he garnished his performance with a series of unfeeling remarks which, had they emanated from any responsible politician, would be brought up against him on every platform in the country. It is simply indecent, when terrific disaster has overtaken a people, to minimise the loss and to jeer at their distress, and though to Mr. Labouchere it may seem excusable when that people happens to be the population of a British colony, it will hardly so strike any other Englishman.

It is to be hoped that the instructions given to the British representatives at the Peace Conference will not textually be those which Mr. Goschen read out to the House of Commons. "If the other Great Powers should be prepared to diminish their programmes of ship-building," said Mr. Goschen, "we should be prepared on our side to meet such a procedure by modifying ours." It is patent that the British Navy, being our main insurance against destruction in all parts of the world, cannot possibly be reduced with the faintest proportional reference to naval reductions alone promised or achieved by other Great Powers. If the Continental representatives are prepared to diminish their vast armies and their navies, Mr. Goschen's declaration might commend itself to the people of this country. But, as it stands, the suggestion is too onesided altogether. We should be offering to bind our right hand, if the enemy will bind his left.

We do not believe for a moment that the rejection by the Reichstag of the proposals for an increase of the German Army will have any of the serious consequences hinted at in advance by the Berlin correspondents. There are no signs either of a dissolution, or of a "Chancellor Crisis." As the SATURDAY REVIEW pointed out at the time of the last general election, the central fact of the situation is that, since the break up of the Cartel, the Government is in a permanent minority in the Reichstag, and is without the slightest hope at present of turning that minority into a majority. The result is that for every measure like an Army Bill, which is certain of the hostility of the Socialists and Radicals, the Government has, to put it bluntly, to buy the vote of the Centre; and the parties are still higgling about the price. It is known that the Emperor is very impatient of this humiliating position, and he will probably take an early opportunity of trying to come finally to terms with the Ultramontanes on the basis of complete religious liberty.

Lord Claud Hamilton sat for many years as Conservative member for Liverpool; he is a brother of the Secretary of State for India, and he lives a good deal at the Carlton Club. His renunciation of the present Government implies, therefore, considerable moral courage, though finding fault with one's friends and

relations has always a piquant pleasure of its own. We credit Lord Claud with sincerity of conviction, and with having thought out what he was going to say : we are only sorry for his own sake that he did not study appearances a little more. Considering his position as chairman of the Great Eastern Railway, it certainly would have looked better if Lord Claud Hamilton had made his protest before, instead of after, the announcement of Mr. Ritchie's Automatic Coupling Bill.

Doubtless Lord Claud would reply that he was not called on to express any opinion on the Government, until he was asked the other day to preside at the meeting of the North Kensington Conservative Association. And it may well be that the protest was penned, though not published, long before the Automatic Coupling Bill was drafted. But leaving Lord Claud's personality on one side, there is unquestionably a good deal of sympathy in certain quarters with his outburst. It is not only in the Radical party that there are cross-currents. Probably the majority of Tories with ourselves regard the Vaccination Act of last session as a feeble and immoral concession to ignorant clamour ; while it must be admitted, if with regret, that there are very many, mainly recruits from the old Liberals, both in and out of Parliament, who regard the socialistic tendencies of the domestic legislation of the last few years with hardly disguised alarm.

The Duke of Devonshire's speech on the Board of Education Bill followed pretty closely in the lines already laid down in the SATURDAY REVIEW. Local authorities are all-important, but their creation must be preceded by that of a central authority, whose main object will be to make a sort of Ordnance Survey of English education. The Duke has made it abundantly plain that there will be no attempt to strangle the local authorities at their birth or muzzle them afterwards. The central authority will rather act as a bureau of information to which they may have recourse than an administrative machine for establishing a dead level of uniformity. The Bill contains several improvements on that of 1898 which will commend themselves to the scholastic world. The Advisory Council will be far more real and permanent than its shadowy prototype of last year. Public Schools again will be allowed to take University inspection as an alternative for that of the Government. Probably the principal bone of contention the Lords will leave the Commons to bark over will be the future status of higher-grade schools. They must now declare themselves primary, secondary, or technical. Hitherto they have tried to sail under all three colours.

The Science and Art Department is to be reorganised, but only after the departure of Sir John Donelly. It is very difficult to understand why he has not been compulsorily retired. As it is, his retention practically delays the whole progress of education reform. Fortunately his painless extinction as a public official by the age closure is not far distant. The Duke believes in the proverb "Chi va piano va lontano," for he humorously proposes that this educative Bill shall not come into force till All Fools' Day next year. So too with the powers to be taken over from the Charity Commission. At first only that of inspection is to be transferred. But no reform will be satisfactory that does not go to the root of the matter and make a clean and clear severance between the educational and the eleemosynary functions of the Charity Commission, however difficult and delicate this operation may be.

Lord James' Money-lenders Bill will hardly obtain in the Commons the easy passage it secured in the Lords. It is understood that both Sir Edward Clarke and Mr. Carson will oppose the Bill, upon the ground that where there is fraud or misrepresentation the existing law is adequate to cope with the usurer ; and that where there is neither fraud nor misrepresentation it is undesirable to interfere with contracts of adults.

It is no wonder that Mr. Ritchie has fluttered the dovecots of the railway chairmen, and though some people

may regard the expenditure of eight or ten million pounds as a fleabite, we can understand the railway magnates thinking otherwise. Obviously nothing can be done until the facts are ascertained, for at present the railways contend that no workable automatic coupling has yet been invented in this country ; that so far as one has been tried in the United States the evidence is conflicting as to its safety ; that the conditions of railway traffic in this country differ from those in the United States ; that men are not required to go between the ends of carriages and waggons, the coupling being done by a pole and hook. Mr. Ritchie offers to refer his Bill to a Select Committee : the railway pundits reply that a Royal Commission might be composed of experts. We do not see much in the latter point, as a Select Committee can examine expert witnesses.

Mr. Chamberlain's Bill to enable small occupiers to acquire the ownership of their houses will probably disappoint both friends and opponents, for it is doubtful whether it will ever be widely operative. The local authority is to be empowered to advance four-fifths of the value up to a limit of £300, and the purchaser is to be enabled to transfer for a fee of 10s. There are of course grave economic objections to allowing local authorities to speculate in house property (which is what the Bill really means), but it is perhaps too late to urge that consideration, for, as Mr. Chamberlain says, the principle of the Bill has already been several times approved by both parties in the House of Commons. If an artisan or clerk having got his advance of £240 wishes afterwards to change his residence, we presume he need only go away, and leave the empty house in the hands of the local authority. In the United States the expenditure of the local authority is frequently limited to a certain percentage of the capital, or, as we should say, rateable value. We are glad to note that Mr. Chamberlain proposes to limit the expenditure on his Small Houses Bill to a penny in the pound of the rates. That is the introduction of an excellent principle.

Sir Julius Vogel was something more than a colonial statesman. But for the increasing physical infirmities which made him an involuntary recluse during the last ten years, he would probably have found his way into Parliament. He was an advocate of imperial federation in the days when the Manchester School was still a force to be reckoned with. He realised the value of the imperial connexion to the colonies and utilised the advantage to the utmost. Sir Julius Vogel was the author of the system of colonial borrowing for the purpose of public works, of which hard things have been said by critics of colonial finance. The system has no doubt been carried to extremes, but in the days when New Zealand first appealed to investors in the mother-country, the idea was little less than a stroke of financial genius.

The House of Lords has now settled that the betting ring at Kempton Park is not a place which it is illegal to open, keep, or use for betting with persons resorting thither. But even now the law lords have not quite settled when a place is a "place" within the Act : and betting men are left in doubt whether they can legally take bets under umbrellas, or on stools, or rubbish heaps, or in public-house bars. One thing is clear ; the common sense of 1893 has prevailed : for it is almost incredible that the Parliament of those days meant to interfere with Tattersall's and Newmarket, and the recent agitation really rests on an attempt to construe an old Act by modern opinions.

To illustrate our contention that Sir Henry Fowler's Parish Councils are not particularly beloved of the rural labourers, the following account of what recently took place at a meeting to elect chairman and officers in a typical South-country village near Andover in Hampshire is in point. For once in a way the meeting was well attended by the agricultural labourers, who sat, silent and phlegmatic as usual, in a body at the back of the school-room. After the ordinary business had been transacted without the faintest show of enthusiasm or of opposition, a stranger, lately settled

in the parish, rose and explained that he merely desired to say that in his opinion Parish Councils were utterly useless bodies, and Parish Council meetings a mere waste of time and talk. Instantly a loud and spontaneous cheer went up from the whole body of the labourers. From the day these labourers learned that they were not, under Sir Henry's Act, to be allowed to wire the rabbits or cut the timber on the adjoining common, where the lord of the manor (who is chairman of the Council) exercises these rights, to the moment when this stranger spoke out his mind, the proceedings had been uniformly dull and listless.

We are glad to see that the Kennel Club is at length awake to the propriety of preventing the owners of collies, whose ears have been in any way tampered with, from taking prizes at shows held under its rules and approval. This is something: it is to be hoped, however, that the Club will not stop here, but will set itself strongly against canine disfigurement in any shape or form. The removal of portions of terriers' tails, the tampering with collies' ears, the trimming of the coats of certain breeds—these and various other practices of "the fancy" are foolish and contemptible, even if free from the cruelty of the old custom of cutting strips off the ears of bull terriers and boarhounds. Let the Kennel Club do its work thoroughly, if it desires the public to regard it as a humane and useful institution.

The attempt to widen the Classical Tripos at Cambridge was defeated by a considerable majority last week. As long as the question was purely theoretic, there was a decided preponderance of opinion in favour of reform: when asked a few years ago whether they approved of the present system by which it is possible to graduate in Classics on Part I. alone, that is to say without doing anything beyond mere linguistic, the great majority of classical teachers and examiners replied that they did not approve. And this no doubt represented a genuine conviction. But when it became clear that reform would mean the labour and expense of preparing students for two examinations instead of one, a revulsion of feeling occurred and it was found that Part I. really gave a very complete education.

That Oxford can do what Cambridge apparently cannot is due, partly to the pre-eminent position of Classical "greats" and partly to the different way in which the College system works in the two Universities. On the one hand, although Classics is the greatest school at Cambridge, its rivals are far more nearly its equals in point of numbers than is the case at Oxford: so that colleges have to keep a larger staff of teachers in other subjects. On the other hand the practice which Cambridge colleges almost always pursue of electing Fellows only from members of their own body, has led to a greater inequality between colleges than at Oxford. The Cambridge college which has once got into a bad way can only be extricated by a miracle, or a Royal Commission. A further reason for the failure of the attempt to introduce the teaching of philosophy, history, literature or art into the classical curriculum is to be found in the fact that these subjects are hardly endorsed at all by the University. A Professorship of Ancient History has just been established, but until then Classics only had two professors, while Natural Science has at least eight besides a vast host of readers, lecturers, teachers and demonstrators.

The usual Sunday programme was gone through this week at S. Clement's church, Belfast; but in reply to a question in the House on Monday Mr. Gerald Balfour once more repeated that in his opinion it is not for the police to interfere with the hooting, stone-throwing, blaspheming mob who for months past have made the church service a mockery and a scandal. The law is clear; the police have ample powers of arrest and prosecution, and the ringleaders of the mob are well known; but Mr. Balfour says the police must not do what the law empowers and expects them to do: that must be left to private initiative. In other words the unfortunate individuals—men in humble positions and dependent for their living largely on the goodwill of

their neighbours—who have stood by the rector in this long struggle, are to be put to the expense and the odium of appearing as prosecutors in the police court, because Mr. Balfour is afraid of offending the interesting constituents of Mr. William Johnston and Mr. Arnold-Forster, who regard "Hymns Ancient and Modern" as Popery, and the intoning of the Lord's Prayer as the mark of the beast!

We would put this question to the Chief Secretary: suppose instead of the rector and people of S. Clement's, who for some six months have been exposed to this odious persecution, being an unknown and despised handful of Ritualists, that they were a congregation of Protestants attacked by Catholics or *vice versa*, would he restrain his police for a single day from clearing the streets, and placing the ringleaders in the nearest gaol? He knows that he would not, and why? Because there would be a scene in Parliament if he did. It appears then that because neither faction in Ireland hopes to make party capital out of these poor people and their little iron church, they are to be pelted and hooted, and their service interrupted at its most solemn moments by foul language and laughter, and the hands of the police are to be tied. What an object lesson the Chief Secretary is giving to the "village ruffians" all over Ireland, and how quickly they will learn the lesson that, if only their victims are obscure and unpopular, outrage and insult will be given a free hand, and neither the Chief Secretary nor a single Unionist member of Parliament will take any notice.

A bibliographical treasure of singular interest has recently found its way to Sotheby's. It has hitherto been supposed that there is only one copy in existence of the 1591 Quarto of the two parts of "The Troublesome Reign of King John," the old plays on which Shakespeare's drama was founded—namely, the Capell copy now in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge. But here is a second, and in finer condition than Capell's copy. Its sole defect is that it wants the title page to the first part, as it begins in A 2 with the verses to the Gentlemen Readers. For the rest it is in magnificent preservation, having the headlines not shaved off as they have been in the Capell copy, but with one or two exceptions where they have been slightly cut into, quite intact. The result of a collation with Dr. Furnivall's facsimile of the Capell copy has been to show that, though the text is practically identical with Capell's, there are many highly interesting variants. In fact this volume is one of the most important "finds" in recent years with respect to Elizabethan dramatic literature.

The countrymen of Shakespeare and of our noble old Elizabethan dramatists may well be jealous of treasures which ought to belong to them, and which it should be their pride to retain, and we have directed attention to this volume in the hope that if it comes into the market it will not be allowed to go the way of similar treasures. Books like these being, as they are, of unique interest and importance should be regarded as national heirlooms, and not be permitted to leave the country. It is really lamentable to think of the bibliographical gems which are every year lost to us and pass into the hands of foreigners. If our great libraries are, as they sigh in excuse, too poor to compete with American millionaires, have the Roxburghs, the Devonishire, and the Ellesmeres no successors?

The desecration meant to pass for the decoration of S. Paul's, held up to public censure by our art critic in another column in words forcible indeed but almost gentle for their provocation, simply must be stopped. That is the one consoling feature in this pathetic piece of Philistinism; it can be arrested; physically, it can be even undone. But such an act of restoration would require a moral impulse and a courage that can hardly be expected from those who with high intentions, we admit, have so ruthlessly squandered the money given them for the Cathedral's decoration. It is difficult indeed to understand how men who have so faithfully ministered to the great church's spirit should be so cruel to its body.

THE CLOSED DOOR.

A MATERIAL change has taken place in the position of the Powers in Eastern Asia. The differences between this country and Russia over the Niu-chwang Extension loan have been patched up at least for the time being, affording British policy an unrivalled opportunity to retrieve the weaknesses of the past and to gain an immense increase of political weight at Peking. The firmness and resolution of Her Majesty's Government in bringing matters to this satisfactory conclusion have perhaps been a little exaggerated. There are good grounds for the supposition that Ministers were careful to ascertain Russia's intention of yielding the point before committing themselves to the policy of effectually supporting British interests in Northern China. In a diplomatic sense this prudence is very praiseworthy, and reflects great credit on those who conducted negotiations so successfully at London and St. Petersburg; but there are prejudiced persons who like to think that in times of crisis force will, if necessary, be forthcoming irrespective of such careful providence. However that may be, it is matter for general congratulation that at any rate a temporary solution has been found of a difficulty that might have proved serious. The political prestige which England has gained at Peking would be of little value to her without a policy. In the nick of time, however, Italy has knocked on the head the time-honoured tale of the open door, and has made it almost impossible for the British Government not to see that the parcelling out of China into spheres of influence is becoming an accomplished and indisputable fact. When Lord Charles Beresford, full of boyish enthusiasm for his favourite open-door theory, re-enters the House of Commons to urge this now exploded doctrine, he will find himself in a totally different atmosphere from the Ministerial Far-Eastern fog in which he left it some months ago. Both China and the British Government have undergone a considerable transformation since the summer of 1898. The Ministry of the open door is now helping Italy to acquire a definite sphere of influence in the neighbourhood of the estuary of the Yang-tse. So that judging Ministers by their actions, we may suppose that the open-door fallacy has been put in the Foreign Office waste-paper basket, that there has clearly dawned upon them the truth that China is being partitioned off into political spheres, and that they are doing their best to secure desirable neighbours in the Yang-tse region. If we may construe the conduct of the Government in reference to the demands of Italy into this happy recognition of what some people have known and said for the past several months, there is hope for the future. But the anxious question remains, Will Great Britain content herself with helping others, or will she take care to secure her own portion before the dish is empty?

There are those who talk finely about the iniquity of entering into a struggle in China solely for purposes of commercial gain. But commercial expansion is at the bottom of most modern warfare, as of much in the past, and unless we wish to be elbowed out of our vastly preponderating interests in the Far East, we must be prepared even for the eventuality of striking a blow in defence of them. There are, besides, imperial reasons of far-reaching importance which render the maintenance of our supremacy in Eastern Asia a matter almost of life and death. Having given up the impossible theory of the open door, it is imperative that the British Government should lose no time in setting their seal upon the Yang-tse Valley. The Chinese Government's assurances about the non-alienation of the Yang-tse region were originally of but doubtful value, as every diplomatist is perfectly aware. But in the face of the concession to rival Powers to construct a great trunk railway into the very heart of the supposed English sphere, the present pretence about the predominance of this country in the Yang-tse Valley is almost ludicrous.

Whatever may be the ultimate fate of the Chinese Empire, necessity demands that we should proceed to mark out our sphere of political influence without further procrastination. Whether dismemberment follow or not, there is now no choice. A bolder policy at the

conclusion of the Japanese war might have procured happier and more advantageous results; but unfortunately England did not then realise the great rôle which Chinese problems (or puzzles) were destined to play among the nations of the world. There are signs that Ministers are coming round to a truer appreciation of the facts. They cannot be expected to admit that they were wrong—it would be a diplomatic mistake if they did; so long as they do better, it really does not matter what they say. But optimism must not be allowed to lull the country into oriental languor on oriental questions.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

A CONSIDERABLE increase in the Navy Estimates which already stood ten millions higher than they stood ten years ago, the prospect of a disarmament conference, and of a deficit in the Budget, all coming together at the same time, must undoubtedly produce reflections which have been long absent from the public mind. It seems as if it had been the strangeness of the situation which induced Mr. Goschen to brave a certain kind of criticism in the attempt to explain the reasons for the increase before the increase was announced. It may have been generally understood that a nominal increase in the Navy Estimates would be shown this year to meet the check to expenditure caused by the great engineering strike; but we take it that in most quarters a demand for an increase of more than £2,800,000 comes as a rather unpleasant surprise. The surprise is certainly not lessened when we are plainly told that the increase is forced upon us by a special naval expenditure of the country which is at the moment posing as the friend of disarmament. The supplementary estimate of last autumn was necessitated because the Russian Government placed an additional credit of £9,000,000 at the disposal of its Admiralty, and now our hands are again forced because, beside the proportion of the credit intended to be spent this year, Russia is to spend £1,500,000 more by way of increase to her navy. The position is distinctly annoying; and, unless the coming conference has all along been intended to deal simply with the conscript armies of the Continent—but why ask us to join it in that case?—Russia's position in the eyes of the world becomes farcical. The conjunction of increased Navy Estimates and of a deficit has been of course seized on by some of the Opposition journals as one of the pleasantest levers they have been able to handle for some time. But Mr. Goschen was entirely justified in pointing out that our naval readiness all through the troublous times of last autumn allowed business to flow with perfect tranquillity and smoothness, unruffled by the political breezes which in times of worse preparation might have set the world's waves roaring. Sir Edward Reed in Monday's "Times" had ample grounds for declaring his conviction that a powerful—that is a predominant—navy was "an instrument for maintaining the peace and well-being, not of ourselves alone, but of the world at large." It happens to be a policy necessitated by the situation of this Empire not to contend for anything that is already in the hands of any other civilised Power. Our rôle happens to be the occupation of unoccupied territory. We have only one hope and only one fear, each of which controls our intentions in the matter of naval expenditure. We hope for a free sea, and we fear attacks upon the free sea by such as might not understand that a Mare Clausum hurts the owners of it more than it can hurt anyone else. It is impossible for us to stand by and see the free sea threatened, and we cannot understand great increases of Continental naval expenditure as meaning anything else but an ultimate design to challenge, and if possible to destroy, that freedom. Thus, in face of what Russia has done and is doing, the Government does not require defence unless it can be shown that our naval power was so advanced as to defy competition. But the most moderate of those who have estimated concurrent naval forces have never gone so far as this. Some of them assumed last summer that

we had reached a position so far forward that only normal expenditure was required to maintain it ; but none of them have doubted that abnormal expenditure on the part of possible challengers of the freedom of the sea must be met with abnormal expenditure by its defenders. Under the conditions of the time, we can scarcely get away from the great question of increased expenditure to consider its details. The point is an expenditure of over £28,000,000 in all ; and not impossibly the best apology for it is the higher policy of the game of brag. It may not, when all is said and done, be of so much consequence to the cause of peace what classes of ships are built by us, and what fixed defences to protect them are erected, as that so much money is spent by way of developing naval power. If we make a sufficient show, our position will never be challenged, and so it will never be known whether we did well or ill with our money. The point is to stop really wasteful expenditures by foreign countries whose strength in the nature of things lies on land and not at sea. In the end we shall stop it—however unpleasant such an outlook may be—by the simple expedient of always going one better. These convictions have evidently impressed all parties in the House of Commons to the extent of keeping the debates on the Estimates confined to side issues. The Opposition, as such, has not put in an appearance, and the first vote was carried as if it were a matter of course. The shipbuilding policy, as something within the higher policy of simple naval expenditure, is scarcely criticised, still less challenged. Sir Edward Reed offers objections to the building of any cruisers which do not show large increases in nominal speed ; but such questions are really too intricate—we had almost said, too occult—to reach the real comprehension of the general critic or debater, and they are passed by. So many more battleships and so many more cruisers are to be turned out, as they have been turned out any time these last ten years, and there an end. Yet close students can scarcely avoid noticing how quietly the transformation of what used to be the first-class cruiser into the second-class battleship goes on ; while Mr. Goschen's announcement of the intention to build a new class of smaller and faster cruisers seems almost to hint an appreciation that, the first-class cruiser having been promoted, something is required to fill the vacancy. Monday's short debate, when it left the high road of expenditure, turned into the lanes of personnel, but only as to detail. The great questions of whether we should adopt the policy of small standing forces and large reserves, or large standing forces and small reserves were not raised, though the Government policy tends in the latter direction. But the difficulties which surround the distribution of command between those whose chief business it is to control men, and those whose chief business it is to control machines, were fairly indicated. It is not easy to see how these matters will ultimately be settled. We shall perhaps have to wait until expenditure becomes normal before full attention can be bestowed upon them. It is very satisfactory to note that foreign countries do not see any threats in our determination to remain predominant at sea whatever happens ; and more or less frankly admit that necessity governs us.

LESSONS OF LABOUR.

A STUDY of the fifth Abstract, issued by Mr. Llewellyn Smith the Commissioner for Labour, shows that outside the Trade-Union organisations we have little information from which we can safely make inferences as to the conditions of labour. It is in the great organised trades that we can follow the changes in wages and hours of labour, and the fluctuations in conditions of employment. But "Society men" are only a small proportion of workers even in organised trades, and they dwindle into a smaller fraction of the whole number of manual labourers. Their influence upon industrial conditions spreads indeed beyond the unions themselves throughout their particular trades ; but even so there is a much wider world of professional, domestic, commercial,

agricultural and other industrial occupations about which we are more or less left in the dark. The result is that important as is in fact the part played by Trade-Unions in society, they assume a somewhat disproportionate place both in their theoretical and practical economic aspect, compared with the huge mass of unorganised labour lying outside their sphere. They are like the army or navy of a country which has given up the personal levy of its citizens. To estimate its powers of offence and defence our chief concern is with its organised armed forces. But this limitation is not satisfactory in the industrial relations of a country ; and it is for the advantage of all kinds of workers, as well as of statesmen and others whose political proposals depend for their efficacy on accurate information, that trade organisations should spread over a greater area of labour. We are dependent upon them, and on certain undertakings such as railway companies, or certain special employments such as the Mercantile Service and Government departments, for the best of our economic data. Our information is vague and unreliable about all branches of labour outside the metal, engineering, shipbuilding, mining, building and textile trades, and the railways, docks, and other transport services. As to these the Abstract overflows with details, comparing for half a dozen years past the changes in wages and hours in each trade, and the circumstances of one trade with another ; but we have no such analyses of the great wholesale and retail distributing trades ; and who is to tell us of the conditions of the professional classes who make no returns to the income-tax commissioners, of the vast army of clerks, and the domestic servants male and female who number two millions ? The analysis of the great Trade-Union trades, as we may call them, is, of course, of great value ; we should know much less of the condition of large and important classes of labourers if we were without it ; but we cannot, unfortunately, use it safely for deductions as to other classes of labourers. It is satisfactory to learn that the average of members of Trade-Unions unemployed for the years 1896, 1897, and 1898 was only about a half of that for the three preceding years ; and that the number of days worked in coal and iron mines for 1898 furnished another good average. We also study with admiration the elegant charts showing seasonal fluctuations in employment, and cyclical fluctuations in employment. But we are depending entirely upon Trade-Union returns. Is there any principle known to the laborious analysts which will enable us to deduce the conditions in the occupations and trades about which they are silent ? We are afraid not. Possibly their answer would be, that no such principle is known ; and we believe that would be correct ; but, nevertheless, until we are either supplied with the facts of the unanalysed trades and occupations or with the missing principle, the Abstract of Labour Statistics is doomed to be laboriously incomplete.

There is, however, a group of facts not statistically dependent upon Trade-Union operations ; though the influence of the Unions is a feature in their history. Co-operative societies were due partly, as the Civil Service and other Stores of the middle classes, to the desire for cheaper goods. But in the case of workmen they belonged to the general movement towards a superior economical, political, and social condition. Some economists anticipate a more essential modification of industrial conditions through their action in the future, and take their operations as a test of the growing intelligence, education, self-restraint and business capacity of management and organisation in the working classes. The returns in the Abstract repeat a familiar story of the growing prosperity of the retail distributive societies ; a membership for the United Kingdom of over a million and a half ; a capital of nineteen millions, and sales of nearly sixty millions ; with dividends of between two and three shillings in the pound upon purchases. The productive side is not on so striking a scale, but, including the retail and wholesale distributive societies, co-operative production amounted in 1897 to about nine and a half millions worth of goods ; an increase of over a million and a half on the previous year. The textile, clothing, printing, and corn-milling industries are the most important of their undertakings ; but the régime

of individual capitalists does not appear to be threatened with speedy deposition by co-operation. Profit sharing is not flourishing, and is in fact slowly disappearing. Since 1893 twenty-five schemes have been started; and sixteen have ceased to exist. In the engineering and shipbuilding trade however there are still about twenty-four thousand workmen interested in it. The most important causes of breakdown are losses or want of success, and the dissatisfaction of employers with results.

The deficiency in the Abstract as to the number of children employed as half-timers is disappointing at present, when there is a question of raising the age from 11 to 12. The figures are for 1896; many employers have not made returns, though under the Factory Acts they are bound to keep registers of the children; they do not include miners; all half-timers under fourteen years are placed together, and the various ages are not distinguished. The most interesting point of the information would have been the number of children between eleven and twelve. The figures give a total of about sixty-five thousand half-timers; about fifty-three thousand being employed in the textile trades. In the same groups from which the children are taken about four hundred thousand females under eighteen, and over a million above eighteen are full-timers. There is a table giving the employments children enter on leaving school. Girls we are glad to find still go more largely into domestic service in all the different districts than into any other occupation, except in the textile trade districts. In London, where fifty-seven of every hundred girls go into occupations, twenty-six enter domestic service.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND NATIONAL EDUCATION.

WE have so great a regard, indeed an affection, for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, that we cannot see without something more than regret any falling off from their great ideal; any failure to respond to the legitimate demands of a changed national life. But the new regulations for the Bachelor of Letters examination at Oxford point to the development of an esoteric specialism that can only lessen the influence of the Universities. They have, it is true, been ever esoteric in their aim, their studies and their methods, hardly even affecting to be in touch with many of the springs of national life. Till within a comparatively recent time, some five and twenty years ago, this attitude was not without its justification. The Classical and Mathematical Triposes at Cambridge, and the Mathematical and Literæ Humaniores Schools at Oxford, secured and maintained the highest standard of achievement in subjects in which it was most desirable that such a standard should be upheld. And if a Senior Classic and a Senior Wrangler were the result of an essentially esoteric system it was at once a system and a result of which the community at large, as well as the University, had just reason to be proud. A man, moreover, who took a high degree in the old Classical and Mathematical Honour Schools at Oxford and Cambridge, had laid a solid foundation for the superstructures of future study. But the last five and twenty years have witnessed the predominance of a particular species of esotericism of which no friend of the Universities can be proud.

During that time a great change has passed over the country. The Education Act has done its work. Educational needs which a few years ago were not felt have defined themselves and are urgent. On all sides has arisen an importunate demand for advanced liberal instruction, not the instruction which can be despotically inflicted on schoolboys or undergraduates and on the victims of government examinations, but the instruction proper for intelligent citizens. An appeal has been made to the Universities to afford that instruction. To that appeal they have responded, but it has had the effect of showing that what may be called Academic ideals of education are often not applicable to civil ideals,

or at least need considerable modification. The result has been the gradual definition of two parties, those who would regard the Universities as the exclusive monopoly of specialists and as nurseries of specialism, and those who would bring them into touch with national life by making them the centres and schools of liberal culture. The history and result of this schism is a striking illustration of what may be expected from Academic bodies wholly irresponsible and autocratic. Take the history of the fate of English literature at Oxford, and a more unfortunate episode in the history of education it would be difficult to find. Some twelve years ago an English chair was founded and munificently endowed. As there was already a Chair of Keltic, a Chair of Anglo-Saxon, a Chair of Comparative Philology, and as therefore the philological study of English had been amply provided for, it was confidently expected that the choice of the electors would fall on the sort of teacher contemplated by the originators of the movement, such a teacher as Matthew Arnold or Professor Nichol. But by a veritable job which the late Professor Huxley publicly denounced as "a fraud upon letters" a gentleman who was, and who has never professed to be anything else but a philologist was appointed. Since then English literature is represented by lectures on the *Blickling Homilies*, the *Beowulf* and the like, in other words by precisely the same instruction which the Professor of Anglo-Saxon was already not badly paid for addressing simultaneously—at least in the same week—to the same empty benches. Next came the wreck of a proposed Honour School of English Literature. This was designed with the object of providing an intelligent and liberal study of our national literature. To say that this institution is a reproach to the University and a laughing stock to all but philologists is to say no more than is notorious. The "literary part" of the curriculum is indeed ridiculous. But the climax of these simple perversions of what should be liberal studies is reached in the regulations for the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Letters, to which we referred above. [They are published in the current number of the "Oxford University Gazette."] It is there announced that the degree of "Bachelor of Letters" will be conferred as the result of "a dissertation on the dialects of Scotch Gaelic," and a supplementary examination in that subject. Comment is needless. Well might Matthew Arnold write "I have no confidence in those who at the Universities regulate studies, degrees and honours."

And all this is going on when Oxford and Cambridge have accepted the responsibility of providing instruction for upwards of eighty thousand "extra mural students" and when the higher education of our citizens is literally one of the most urgent problems of our time.

A SPANISH POET: NÚÑEZ DE ARCE.

POETRY in Spain, at the present day, is represented by two admired and popular poets, Ramon de Campoamor, who is now eighty-two years of age, and Gaspar Núñez de Arce, who is sixty-five. The popularity of Campoamor may be inferred from the fact that cheap editions of his works, and cheap selections from them, are to be found everywhere in Spain; but in the case of Núñez de Arce it is possible to speak with greater precision. In the preface to a poem published in 1886 he states that no Spanish work has been reprinted, in this century, so many times in so short a space of time, as the collection of his poems; and that between 1879 and 1885 a hundred and three editions, varying in number from 500 to 2,000, have appeared in Spain, and nearly a hundred more in America. It may be interesting to consider for a moment the position of so popular a poet, the reason of his popularity, and the degree to which he deserves that popularity.

Núñez de Arce is one of those many poets who expect to get credit for the excellent nature of their intentions, who do for the most part get credit for it, and who are genuinely surprised if it is pointed out that in poetry intention counts for nothing, apart from achievement. In the preface to "El Vértigo" he

tells us that all the poems he has hitherto published are "tentatives in which I exercise my forces and assay my aptitude for the various kinds of contemporary poetry." Thus, "La Ultima Lamentación de Lord Byron" is an attempt to obtain the epic tone in relation to a subject of our own times; the "Idilio" is an attempt to write domestic poetry; "La Selva Oscura" is an attempt to express thought under a symbolical form; "La Visión de Fray Martín" is an attempt to unite, "under a grave and severe form, the fantastic and the supernatural with the real and the transcendent." In the "Gritos del Combate" he develops a whole theory of the mission of art, in order to justify a book of political poems; and in a lecture on contemporary poetry, reprinted in the same volume, apologises for occupying himself with aesthetic questions at a time when grave social problems are troubling the minds of men.

This preoccupation with politics, morals, and other problems more suited to prose than poetry, is characteristic of Spain, where it has always been so rare for a man of letters to be merely a man of letters, and where poets have so often been political leaders as well. Núñez de Arce was appointed governor of the province of Barcelona at the time of the revolution of 1868; he has held other public posts at intervals during his life; and it is evident that he looks at least as seriously upon what he conceives to have been his services to his country, as upon the poems which he has written with such well-defined intentions of "fulfilling those sacred duties, and carrying on that moralising mission," which he attributes to poetry. Nowhere, not even in England, are these "serious" views received with more favour than in Spain; and a poet with a mission, and with distinctly explained ambitions, has an audience always awaiting him.

Nor has he only an audience: the critics are on his side. Núñez de Arce is a typical instance of precisely the kind of writer who is certain of an indulgent treatment at the hands of the critics. There is so little to blame; yes, so little either to blame or to praise. Here is a poet who takes himself seriously, who produces good, careful, thoughtful work, here impressive by its rhetoric, there by its simplicity, always refined, always earnest in its declamation, without vulgarity, or extravagance, or artificiality, so often the faults of Spanish poetry; he can write vigorous narrative, of more than one kind, as in "Raimundo Lulio" and "La Pesca"; he can be romantic without being absurd, as in "La Visión de Fray Martín"; he can write verse which is technically correct, dignified, accomplished: is there not some excuse for mistaking so apparently admirable a result for poetry? And yet what avail all the negative virtues, and all the taste in the world, in the absence of the poetic impulse, poetic energy, the soul and body at once of poetry? It is like discussing the degree to which a man, who is certainly not alive, is dead. Núñez de Arce has no intense inner life, crying out for expression; his emotion is never personal, but generalised; he has no vision, only an outlook. There is no singing note in his voice; every line is intellectually realised, line follows line as duly as in an argument; but the exquisite shock or the more exquisite peace of poetry is in none of them. To be thoughtful is after all so slight a merit in a poet, unless the thought is of some rare or subtle kind, a thoughtfulness of the instincts rather than of the reason. Let the quality of his thought be tested by a glance at his epithets. In "La Ultima Lamentación de Lord Byron" he invokes Greece: "Greece, immortal Greece! Loving mother of heroes and geniuses! Calm fount of rich inspiration! Fruitful spouse of Art! Eternal light of the mind!" Where, in these epithets, is that "continual slight novelty" which poetical style requires if it is to be poetry?

And even his patriotic feeling, strong and sincere as it is, is not of a fine poetical quality; it is not to be compared with the patriotic feeling of Quintana, a poet whom he honours. Quintana, celebrating the defeat of Trafalgar, could say: "Para el pueblo magnanimo no hay suerte." But Núñez de Arce, narrowly political, can but see "sad Spain, our mother Spain, bleeding to death in the mud of the street," because a Senate is

Republican or not Republican. He discusses, he does not sing; and for discussion poetry has no place. And his discussion is a declamatory discussion, as in the poem called "Paris," where a Bourgeois and a Demagogue of 1871 toss to and fro the arguments for and against Anarchy, and are both solemnly rebuked by the poet at the end of the poem. His verse is full of an uninspired discontent, the discontent of an orator, not the passionate or ecstatic discontent of the poet.

"Hijo del siglo, in vano me resiste
a su impiedad,"

he tells us, with a sort of melancholy pride in representing, as it seems to him, so faithfully, a century whose materialising tendencies he so sincerely deplores. "La Duda" (Doubt) is one of his most popular poems, read with applause on the occasion of the "Juegos Florales" of the Catalan poets in 1868. "In this age of sarcasm and doubt, there is but one muse," he tells us; "the blind, implacable, brutal muse of analysis, that, armed with the arid scalpel, at every step precipitates us into the abyss, or brings us to the shores of annihilation." And it is always of this muse that he is uneasily conscious, unwilling to follow, and unable to turn aside. It has been part of his aim to write, not merely poetry, but modern poetry. But he comes to the task a moralist, a disbeliever in his own age, whose influence he feels as a weight rather than as an inspiration; and he brings no new form, he adds no flexibility to an old form. Himself no new force, he has had the misfortune to be born in a country lacking in original forces. For a Spanish poet of to-day there is no environment, no helpful tradition. He looks back on a literature in which there is not a single great or even remarkable poet since Calderon. He has been brought up on Espronceda, Quintana, Zorrilla; which is as if an English poet of our days had no choice of models but a lesser Byron, a lesser Cowper, and a lesser Longfellow. He looks around him, and discovers no guiding light in other countries. In his "Discourse on Contemporary Poetry," delivered in 1887, Núñez de Arce gives his opinion of English, French, Italian, and Russian poets, with a significant preference for English poets, and among them for Tennyson, and a not less significant horror at what seems to him the shamelessness and impiety of poetry in France. But he is not content with even English poetry. "Swinburne," he tells us, "sometimes sings as Nero and Caligula would have sung if they had been poets;" and he groups together "Atalanta in Calydon" and "Anactoria" as poems in which "impure passion, Pagan sensuality, erotic extravagance, acquire monstrous proportions, bellowing like wild beasts hungering for living flesh." Of Browning he has little to say, except "que no siento por él admiración alguna." Richepin he looks upon as one of the typical poets of France, and he repeats the usual vague phrases about the Decadent School, without naming a single writer, and with a perfectly ingenuous lack of comprehension. The conclusion he brings back from his survey is that "humanity has lost its wings, and walks along unknown ways, not knowing whither it is going." And his final expression of hope in a regeneration of poetry, and of the world through poetry, is but a phrase of the rhetoric of despair.

To all this there is but one answer, and the answer is briefly given in a single line of Sidney:—

"Fool, said my muse to me, look in thine heart
and write."

HOW WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CAME IN NEW ZEALAND.

ONE morning in September 1893 the women of New Zealand woke up and found themselves enfranchised. They had not struggled for the privilege, had hardly even asked for it. No franchise leagues had agitated for it year after year, no crowded meetings had listened to harangues from eloquent and cultured women, with intellects and attainments protesting even more effectually than their words against the political sub-

jection of their sex. Amongst them there was not one of sufficient distinction with tongue or pen to attract public attention. Pamphlets had not been circulated; candidates had not been squeezed—politically—at election-time. No antipodean Primrose League had initiated Colonial ladies into the arts of electioneering. Not merely were the women not voters: they were not politicians, and, generally speaking, displayed not the least desire to become so. The languid little movement for the suffrage was not even headed by women but by men. And when the grant of it came it was given freely and spontaneously in the most easy and unexpected manner in the world by male politicians who had for the most part been converted to it by reading English arguments gallantly but unsuccessfully brought to bear in controversies twelve thousand miles from the Antipodes. When the unexpected thus happened, the victors—if the term can be applied to recipients of a free gift who had not as a body, bestirred themselves in the least to get it—were as unprepared for the discharge of their novel duty as any newly enfranchised class could well be. The vote had not been given to a mere section, to the wealthy, the leisured, the educated, the enthusiastic. The franchise was universal; virtually every woman over twenty-one years old was entitled to it.

In six weeks the Political Woman was a fully equipped voter. She had her franchise. "What will she do with it?" was the universal question. The older the male politician the more loth was he to give a definite answer. Beyond a certain physical robustness, the women of New Zealand are singularly devoid of distinctive characteristics. They are neither intellectual nor childish, highly cultured nor illiterate, aristocratic nor strikingly plebeian, artistic nor vulgar. In a land where millionaires are unknown and paupers few; where towns are as loosely spread amongst gardens and plantations as the most scattered English villages; where three-quarters of a million of colonists, nearly all of British origin, are sprinkled at the rate of seven to the square mile among sublime mountains and pleasant valleys in the healthiest climate in the world—it would be odd if Englishwomen were anything but a wholesome, happy, home-loving race. In the cheerful drawing-rooms of the comfortable two-storied wooden houses which the wealthier class are well content to inhabit, you meet refined ladies who require merely the costumes of the Regency to seem Jane Austen's women come back to life. Music, embroidery and flowers are their arts; the last novel but two may be the extent of the literature upon which you may safely converse with them. Even to-day politics do not interest many of them. If this be usually the case now among the wealthier, it was emphatically so five years ago among the sturdy countrywomen, farmers' and shepherds' wives and daughters, or helpmates of the miner and bushfeller, who were mistresses of farmsteads and cottages in the forests of the West or the grassy downs of the Eastern settlements. It might be expected that factory hands would support a Government which passed labour laws, that schoolmistresses would be sound on the education system, and that the Kates and Bridgets of kitchen and scullery would vote as the priests told them. Beyond that who could tell?

The General Election took place at the end of November, 1893. The contest was warm. The Progressive Land and Labour policy was before the country, and there were the cross-currents in the shape of Prohibition and demands for money for Church schools. Candidates abounded—the pay of members had been lately raised to £20 a month. Bishops harangued their flocks; clergymen stood for constituencies; prayers were offered and hymns sung for the victory of Temperance. On the whole the women took matters wonderfully coolly. They flocked in thousands to the public meetings where by common consent the front seats were given up to them. But far from displaying hysterical emotion, they sat row upon row listening without a sound, and their sombre dresses and still more sombre silence, impassive faces and irresponsible stillness, unnerved young orators and damped even old parliamentary hands. Careful coaching was needed to induce them to clap their hands, and persuasive demonstration had to be employed to show them the

political uses of boot-heels and umbrellas. She was a bold woman who first waved a white handkerchief; a bolder who dared to second a vote of thanks. A lady elector might indeed bring a bouquet of flowers destined for some favourite candidate; but to a gentleman—usually a young gentleman—would be allotted the task of handing up or hurling the tribute.

Polling-day was awaited with dread by the electioneering agents and returning officers, with doubt by veteran politicians, and with a pleasurable excitement by the women. The official mind apprehended disorder and confusion though twice the usual number of voting-booths had been prepared. Many an anxious candidate hardly slept o' nights, or, if he dreamed, had visions of enthusiastic female supporters putting crosses against his name on the ballot-paper instead of scratching out the enemy's names as is the correct New Zealand mode. The eventful day was bright and fine almost everywhere. The women began to vote at about nine o'clock, and by amicable arrangement were allowed to have certain booths pretty much to themselves until noon. The poorer housewives "tidied up" at home, put on their best clothes and wa'ked to the nearest poll. Sometimes their menkind escorted them, for it was a general though not universal holiday. More often the women of one or two neighbour families made up a party and sallied forth together. From noon to two o'clock, dinner postponed politics; from two to five o'clock, the women again thronged the booths and had almost all comfortably voted by tea-time when the rush of workmen began to swamp the polls. All things were done in courtesy and order, without hustling, rudeness or hysteria. Good-natured neighbours took it in turns to look after each other's children whilst the voting was done. Each woman armed herself conscientiously with her number, and on the whole the novices went through the ordeal creditably enough. The proportion of spoiled papers was very little larger than at previous elections.

And what did it all lead to—this satisfactorily peaceful revolution? It left things very much as they were. The Progressive Government increased its majority but hardly its strength. The teetotallers had achieved some notable victories, but on the whole the Women's Parliament was far less favourable to them than they had hoped, and after a year or two their cause seemed to wane. The denominational school men were found weaker than ever. A Bill to admit ladies to Parliament was rejected, almost with contempt. M.P.'s exhibited just about the same amount of sobriety and morality as formerly, and no more. The Radical policy, with its land, labour, and cheap money bills, continued to take up the time and energies of Parliament. Desperate efforts to found a new party, based rather vaguely upon purity, sobriety, and non-partisan patriotism, died a natural death. Gradually but irresistibly the conviction forced itself upon the New Zealand mind that the women, knowing little and caring as little about political details, had voted almost always with the men of their family and class. Sharing to the full the prejudices, hopes, and interests of their fathers, brothers, husbands, and lovers they had cheerfully doubled the voting power of these. Where, as in the case of schoolmistresses and factory girls, they had some special bond of union other than domestic, they had voted much as schoolmasters and male trade-unionists had voted. When people came to think of it, they agreed this was so natural that it was a wonder everyone had not foreseen it. With one accord colonists ceased to be afraid of what the Suffrage might do and began instead to complain of it for not doing more. That, on the whole, has been their attitude since. Only here and there careful observers note that groups of women are studying politics and foresee that, as years go by, these will supply a new and intelligent political force with distinct and logically reasoned aims of its own and—probably—a feminine knack of inducing the confident and unsuspecting male to adopt them. At present the most interesting effect of the Suffrage upon parliaments and ministries is that it has strengthened the influence of public opinion. Twice as many human beings in each constituency are voters, and the politicians to whom votes are the breath of life are proportionately sensitive

THE UNIVERSITY EIGHTS.

THE practice of the crews is exciting a keener interest this year than it has done for some time past. The reason is not far to seek, for there are at last two crews between whom the most capable critics are unable to choose. For the past eight years, with the exception perhaps of 1896, the result of the race has been, at this period of training, a foregone conclusion. This year, however, a careful scrutiny of their rowing, and a careful comparison of the times occupied by each over various parts of the course, show that there is very little choice between them in the matter of pace and staying power.

At the beginning of the year, when the crews first got to work, the chances appeared to be all in favour of Oxford. They had four of last year's winning crew : Mr. Gold who has so often shown himself to be in the very first rank as a stroke ; Mr. Herbert who rowed "7" last year ; Mr. Warre who rowed "4," and Mr. Pitman who rowed "bow." The Trial Eights had shown that there was plenty of good material to fill the four vacancies, and the crew during the first few weeks shaped well and promised to become a very fast one. They have not, however, come on quite so well as was expected, and are not yet up to the standard of the last few years. Their chief fault is lack of drive at the beginning of the stroke. The body-form is, on the whole, good and their "paddling" is neat, the hands coming away smartly off the chests, but when they are extended at full pressure they do not cover the blades soon enough at the beginning of the stroke, nor does the work come on as soon as the blades are covered. This lack of "beginning" is rather a serious hindrance to their pace, but it is a fault that a crew often cure right at the end of training, when they are attempting a racing stroke. Mr. McLean, their coach, appears to be devoting most of his attention to the remedy of this evil, and should he be successful in his endeavours they will be a fast and formidable crew by the day of the race. They have this further merit, they row considerably better when they are racing than when they are practising alone. On each occasion that they have had a scratch crew alongside of them they have pulled themselves together, and rowed harder without getting flurried. Calculations as to the prospects of a boat race are often thrown out by the fact that some crews race very much better than they row in practice, while others do just the reverse, and seem to lose their "rhythm" and uniformity directly they get another boat alongside of them. It is therefore most important to watch how the University crews perform with the various scratch teams that are opposed to them during their training at Putney. Oxford acquitted themselves very fairly in a test of this kind on Wednesday last. They were rowing from Hammersmith to Barnes and a Leander crew which was quite fast, as scratch crews go, picked them up after they had gone about a couple of minutes. The scratch took half a length start, but the 'Varsity crew, who seemed at once to pull themselves together, rowed right past them in just over three minutes. Even if Cambridge prove themselves faster in their trials, there will be many supporters of Oxford who will rely on Mr. Gold to get them home first on the day of the race. His generalship did much to snatch the 1896 race out of the fire after Cambridge had led the whole way, and he has had great experience and has won innumerable races at Henley and elsewhere.

Cambridge were not so fortunate as their rivals at the beginning of training. The president Mr. Etherington-Smith was rowing very much below his Henley form, and Mr. Goldie the only other member of last year's crew was rather off colour ; they were also quite at a loss to find a suitable stroke. Each man that they tried in that important place was less satisfactory than the last, but, eventually the careful coaching of Mr. Fletcher began to take effect on Mr. Gibbon, and he improved so rapidly that it is hardly possible now to recognise him as the man who was rowing stroke a month ago. He now gives the men behind him plenty of time at the finish, and keeps the swing long and fairly steady. As a crew, Cambridge are getting very well together, their "finish" is

well held out with the legs, they are hard workers, and there is not a bad "stayer" among them. Their most conspicuous failing is that they have not mastered the art of combined leg and body work at the beginning of the stroke. It is essential in rowing on long slides that the lift of the bodies, and the drive with the legs, at the beginning of the stroke should be simultaneous. The Cambridge crew lift their bodies up at the beginning, but do not drive at once with their legs, and consequently the pace which they get on their boat is not proportionate to the labour they expend. They are, however, by no means slow, and they have a good boat which runs well between the strokes. There is one curious fact about their boat which is worthy of notice. She was built to carry a heavy man at "3" and has her greatest beam farther forward than the average eight. Several of the fastest boats of recent years have been built to carry a heavy man at that thwart, and this fact has been pointed out to boat-builders over and over again. In spite of this they persist in building their boats with the greatest beam much too far aft. It is about as much good talking to a brick wall as to a builder of racing boats. He builds entirely by rule of thumb on the moulds which he learnt during his apprenticeship, without knowing the why or the wherefore.

Unless both crews row between the same points on the same tide, it is impossible to get any direct "line" as to their respective merits from the times that they take, and they always avoid giving a direct line in this way if they can possibly help it. It is of course possible to compare the performance of one with the performance of the other by taking into consideration the conditions of tide and wind on each occasion, but the test is by no means a certain one. When Cambridge rowed the course on Wednesday the tide was running up very fast, and there was practically no wind. It was generally anticipated that they would do a fast time, but no one of those whose opinion is of any value ventured to prophesy that they would get to Mortlake in less than 19 minutes. The time which they accomplished—18 mins. 56 secs.—was very good even under the favourable circumstances which prevailed, although they did not dispose of the scratch crew as easily as they should have done. They kept the stroke long and the work hard from start to finish. On Thursday Oxford rowed the full course in 19 mins. 34 secs. The conditions were not so favourable as on the previous day, but they were some 15 secs. slower than was expected.

There is one further circumstance which makes it very difficult to prophesy with any degree of confidence as to the result of this year's boat-race. The crews have not had a single rough day since they have been at Putney. Rowing on the tide in rough weather is a very different thing from rowing there when it is calm, and it is almost impossible to guess from the performances of a crew on smooth water how they will acquitted themselves in a storm. If we have a change of weather and a succession of gales between this and the 25th, it may have a very material effect on the prospect, which there seems to be at present, of an exciting race next Saturday.

SIR W. B. RICHMOND AND ANOTHER
AT S. PAUL'S.

I MUST suspend the consideration of Rembrandt's drawings to deal with a public matter of importance and urgency, the defacing of the dome of S. Paul's by Sir W. B. Richmond's scheme of decoration. I rubbed my eyes when I read the vigorous letter of Lord Wemyss in the "Times" for two reasons ; I had not seen the new work outside of the choir, and I did not understand why at this point, after years of gratified acquiescence on the part of the Press, silence was suddenly and sharply broken in the newspaper-gauge of what the public will tolerate, and a correspondent allowed to protest against designs that the critical guides of the public had encouraged an innocent Chapter to permit. I remembered the scene when those guides were invited to visit the scaffolding and view the beginnings of the work. A charming Canon took them round and intoned the lesson he had

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learned in a voice to which no response was possible save "Amen!" "In this figure," he chanted, "the artist conceived that emphasis should be laid upon the human nature of Our Lord" (Emotion of the Press), while a practical voice at my ear muttered "The workmen were busy all the morning trying to get the gumboil out of the left cheek." It needed perhaps the authority of a Peer to give the word for criticism of a knight; but the rude word has been said at last, "Vandal" has been printed in the "Times," and no one with a reputation to lose in the matter of taste will venture to contradict it.

A visit to S. Paul's explained the indignation of Lord Wemyss. Till now Sir W. B. Richmond's work has been scarcely visible to the casual visitor; the darkness of London, against which, in his admirable efforts as vestryman, that Academician has been so imprudently contending, has concealed his mosaics in the choir. Only those who have seen them from the scaffolding or on rarely bright days from below know how shallow, weak and gaudy they are. It has thus been possible for the public to believe what they have been told. It is different when the decoration emerges into the open, into the more visible spaces of the arcade that supports the dome. A quarter of the damage done here has now been unveiled, and in full memory of the ten churches of Wren's design destroyed in the City, of others threatened, of yet others deformed, it is difficult to believe that anything so impudent has been done by modern incapacity to the work of a great English master. To pull down Temple Bar and plant the Griffin in its place seemed to be the climax of insult; this last achievement is to decorate Wren's work with the art of the Griffin. The master whose design is the assertion of masculine vigour, of grand spacing and projection, of the clean beauties of proportion, receives as the tribute of 1899 a peppering of his panels and mouldings with ornament that recalls the stencillings of the railway station waiting room, and the transparencies of a music-hall seen by daylight.

I have tried till now to temper my distaste for Sir William Richmond's designs with allowances for an intelligible ambition. I put to his credit the study he had given to the revival of ancient methods of technique, the devotion with which he had spent himself on the task. But the moment has surely come when these considerations no longer ought to count, and all available forces must be called to arrest the further degradation of a national monument, nay more, one of the loftiest achievements of the race. The frog is harmless and even amusing when it measures itself against the ox, but there are places where the spectacle is inconvenient. Sir William Richmond's experiments in technique would be laudable carried out in any one of a thousand modern churches. In this church all experiment should be forbidden, and the rule enforced that until something nobler than the surfaces left by Wren can be produced to cover them, no finger be permitted to touch the stones. Is the nobility of their design and the tender golden grey of their natural tone not good enough that we must bespatter them with patterns? Never was the itch for ornament more out of place.

But more than one master is the sufferer by these proceedings. Once, since Wren followed Inigo Jones to the grave, the spirit of pride, strength and beauty that conceived S. Paul's has visited England, and we have had a man who might lay hands to its fabric without blame. A precious fragment of his design is involved in the new ornament, and its treatment is characteristic of the Cathedral's dealings with him. The truncated masterpiece of Alfred Stevens stands indeed in the nave; but the model of the horseman suffers gradual dilapidation in the crypt.* By this neglect one of the finest equestrian statues ever designed, a figure to put with Donatello's, decays, for want of the modest price of bronze, while a quarter of a million can be wasted on trashy mosaics. But Stevens did more, he struck out a project for the decoration of the dome, a section of which is still to be seen in a dusty gallery of the Cathedral. It is safe to say that no project of the kind since the

Sistine roof was painted, promised to be so worthy an heir. It is incredible, but it is true, that the Dean and Chapter, on some caprice about subjects, set Sir E. J. Poynter to work on the improvement of this design. With some reluctance, let us hope, but more temerity, he accepted the task, and Lord Leighton made a most plucky and remarkable effort to fill one of its circles with his picture of "The Sea giving up her Dead." The revived project however was happily dropped. Stevens' sketch ought to have warned any designer to let it sleep till the miracle of equal genius should revisit us.

Of Stevens' whole scheme one mosaic spandril, "The Prophet Isaiah,"* was carried out under his supervision; for four other prophets he made small coloured drawings, three of which were carried out; Mr. Watts, with less masterly design, but with a fair measure of continuity, supplied two evangelists, and Mr. Britten the other two. In Stevens' own judgment the colouring of his spandril called for some lightening with gold to carry out his intention, and a certain heaviness of tone is the only reproach that can be brought against these majestic designs. The new decorator with his gilding, bits of glass, and chocolate stencils sets himself to throw down those grave-coloured mosaics still further; and thus contrives to do the same disservice to Stevens as to Wren. For it must be explained that his decoration brings into prominence one of the debateable points in Wren's structure. Wren let the line of his piers cut across the arches under the dome in what, if it is dwelt upon, may seem an awkward way, but he did it simply and left the section plain. It has been the new decorator's care to chip panels out of these sections and stick them with glass.

Followers of the Arts and Crafts School are wont, in the manner of William Morris, to describe S. Paul's as "office-made architecture." It is to be desired that their patterns should be reserved for examples of a more congenial architecture. They are wont also to draw fancy pictures of the artist-craftsman. The real figure transcending their dreams was Stevens, who could have made anything, from a chair to a cathedral; in architecture, sculpture, painting he was a master, and he could have taught the workmen their business in each branch of craftsmanship. But, more important, he could draw and design as no other Englishman has done. I know the difficulties of our national collections with their insufficient grants and their eye on masters of greater antiquity, but I cannot altogether forgive the apathy of their guardians who might have secured the whole *œuvre* of Stevens for an old song but let the time slip by. The drawings of three men in our century will be asked for at those museums in time to come, Stevens, Keene and Rossetti; practically the whole work of each of the two former might have been bought for the price, moderate enough, of one drawing by Burne-Jones at Christie's. One collection, offered on easy terms some years ago to both museums, and refused by both, is now on view at Messrs. Carfax and Co.'s in Ryder Street. These drawings are among the slighter studies of the master, but the collection is richer than the Print Room's and no scrap of it is without interest. Nothing in it idle, nothing merely pretty, but in each of these rapid notes for pose or drapery invention and observation are at grips in one act. Among them will be found one or two sketches for the mosaics at S. Paul's; others for the Jermyn Street Door, an art student's medal, and so forth. Also, what will surprise many even of Stevens' admirers, careful delicate copies after the earlier painters of Florence. Before the Preraphaelites had met, Stevens had copied every scrap he could find of Giotto, Masaccio, Masolino, absorbed what was his to take in the lesson, and passed on.

In the Florence of the fifteenth century he would have been the mark certainly of great envies, the prey perhaps of discouragements and of his own too all-attempting invention, but the very thieves would have

* When I last saw the model, besides minor damage, the head of the Duke was actually missing. Some hope was held out of its being found, and I assume for the moment that it will be. It is well however to put the fact on record by way of warning to its guardians.

* The full-size cartoon for this, some thirty-six feet across, is now safely lodged at the Tate Gallery, and is being restretched and cleaned by the care of the director, Mr. Holroyd. When it is possible to exhibit it, Stevens will begin to take his place as the head not only of our sculptors, but of our painters, as Michael Angelo understood the art, in the past century. The small sketches are at S. Paul's.

known him for the master he was and fame have spun legends about his fragments; is it too much to ask in London of the nineteenth, that out of the little salvage of his encumbered creation one work should be finished? We are told it is a busy age, but a Dean and Chapter who have found time and money to spend on a freak of taste that in decency must be undone might spare a very little of both for this one act. D. S. M.

COMPARISONS.

EXCEPT Miss Geneviève Ward, none of the mimes did well in the new piece at the Adelphi. Miss Ward herself had very little to do, and even that little was of slight importance to the play. So far as I can remember—plays like “The Man in the Iron Mask” make slight claim on one's memory—there was no particular reason for the Queen Mother to appear on the stage at all. Appear she did, however, in the person of Miss Ward, and then, for the first and last time in the evening, one saw a performance that did not utterly violate all those canons to which, in romantic melodrama, mimes must conform. Miss Ward conformed magnificently to all those canons. She strode across the stage, bearing herself regally. She struck the ground with her stick sharply. She threw back her head, and her eyes were blazing. She rolled forth her words with bitter passion. Her every syllable was resonant, and with her every gesture she swept the house. And she won a full, immediate victory for the old tradition, for the grand manner. The moment she appeared on the stage, her presence—and she has indeed a presence!—thrilled us to attention. After our prolonged oppression in a sultry atmosphere of amateurishness, it was as welcome as a thunderstorm. Though it did not exactly clear the air—as soon as it was over, sultriness set in again—it was, while it lasted, intensely stimulating. It was fine to hear, and its flashes were a wondrous spectacle.

Altogether, a sorry evening for the new school of acting! Do not take me to mean that the new school is inferior to the old. In many ways it is far superior, though it cut so very poor a figure on Saturday night. Weigh the two methods in the scales of modern comedy or modern tragedy, and the new method comes down with a triumphant clash. Weigh them, however, in the scales of romantic melodrama, and that method flies lightly, ingloriously, up. The new method of acting is corollary to the new method of drama, just as was the old method of acting to the old method of drama. It is always (if I may say so without wounding the Actors' Association) the dramatist who makes the mime, and not (as some mimes fancy) *vice versa*. And as the new drama will wax inevitably, and the old will wane, the importance of the new acting and of the old will wax and wane in relative proportion. As one who likes to be on the winning side, I should be, therefore, the last to pooh-pooh the new acting. It is only when I am forced to see an imitation of the old drama that I champion the old acting. “But,” someone may object, “how dare you imply that romantic melodrama is an old-fashioned form? Haven't we been deluged with it for months?” We have. The public will always want to be deluged with it. When I call romantic melodrama an old-fashioned form, I mean that it is no longer a form to which any vital, considerable dramatist devotes himself. All the good plays that are written now are realistic tragedies, like “Grierson's Way,” or realistic comedies, like “The Liars.” All the romantic melodramas that are written now are very poor stuff—“The Man in the Iron Mask” is, by the way, very poor stuff indeed—and the best of them is as inferior to “The Lady of Lyons” as are the tame, niggling, gripless little efforts of Mr. Anthony Hope or Mr. Stanley Weyman to the novels of the elder Dumas. When “The Lady of Lyons” was written, romantic melodrama was a form which the good dramatist still loved, which he still took quite seriously. Now it is left to accomplished hacks, who fake it up to the best of their ability. In dramaturgy, as in literature and painting, real highfalutinism is just now a lost art. Bombastes has been suppressed. Ercles' vein is off.

Regret this, if you like—I myself often do regret it—but don't deny the patent fact. Art is never stagnant. It is always moving, heavily, irresistibly, now in one direction, now in another. During recent years, it has been moving in the direction of realism—when I say “realism,” I use the word in its general and proper sense, not as signifying any crude presentation of suicide, disease, or incest. Fifty years ago, literary and pictorial genius was all for rainbows, waterfalls, palaces, princesses, zephyrs, lakes, ruined towers by moonlight. These things were shaken and taken by the best artists and by them glorified with the utmost rhetoric. The writer orated over them in words, the painter in pigments. They were called the Good, the Beautiful, and the True, and were the stock-in-trade of every self-respecting artist. In those days, the artist's aim was to shut his eyes to the actual world as tightly as he could, to see nothing as it was, and to create for himself a remote and roseate phantasmagoria. Sometimes this aim had very beautiful results. The pictures painted by Turner, the romances written by Bulwer, had passages of very real, even tremendous, beauty. Certainly, the neo-romantic movement in England was by no means barren. But it could not last for ever. Reaction came gradually. One after another, the younger artists refused to throw in their lot with the Good, the Beautiful, and the True. They opened their eyes to the world around them. They began, like babies, to “take notice.” And what they saw interested them. They vowed that life itself and the little facts of various lives, their own characters and the characters of other men and women, had far more fascination than was to be found in the phantasmagoriae of the masters. Whether they were right or wrong, I am not going to discuss. The important thing is that they held this opinion, and that they acted on it. Timidly at first, they drew near to life, and began to describe what they saw. In painting, literature, dramaturgy, new schools were founded, schools which are still flourishing, and realism was the motto of them all. Realism was the chief motive of the Pre-Raphaelites as essentially as it was, later, the chief motive of the Impressionists. From George Eliot to Meredith and Hardy, all the novelists have been imbued with this one primary aim: to get nearer to actual life, deeper into it. Mr. Hardy professes to have found in it the Bad, the Ugly, and the False; Mr. Meredith, to have found the other things. But though the discoveries of the two men have been so different, their method has been the same. Both are realists, both constantly inquisitive of life. They have had their ears at the same key-hole, though they have not overheard the same things. And the best of the younger writers, they too are realists. The realistic novel is the only kind of novel that has any life in it now. And, as in painting and in literature, so also in dramaturgy the trend has been, and is, all towards realism. Maeterlinck himself, though, like the Pre-Raphaelites, he wears a romantic halo, is as much a realist as Ibsen: it is the various emotions of men and women, as they are, that he is always seeking to describe. There is significant irony in the fact that Tom Robertson, the first man to introduce realism on the modern English stage, has long since been swept away by the revolution he created! It was he who first tried to make his puppets life-like, and in doing so, he created, also, that new school of acting which is one theme of my article. He created the Bancrofts. Since that time, the whole method of acting has changed. The old method was useless in the portrayal of modern human beings. For such portrayal, sympathy, intelligence, the power to observe character accurately and to render with delicacy fine shades of emotion, are of far greater importance than are a voice of thunder and an imperial manner of walking about the stage. The new method, quiet and subtle, is the only method by which modern drama can be interpreted. And it has killed the old method. On the metropolitan stage, Miss Ward is now one of the very few exponents of the old method. Nearly all the others have been driven forth into the provinces. There, indeed, the old method is still flourishing. There one finds infinitely better acting in romantic melodrama than one ever finds in London. There, too, Shakespeare's plays are performed much better than in London, for

in Shakespeare's plays the poetry and the rhetoric are of far greater importance than the psychology. The metropolitan mimes squeeze out of them the last drop of psychology, and add many more on their own account; but of the splendour of the verse they can give us little or nothing: the plays languish under a load of delicate, irrelevant subtlety. And if the old method is the best means of interpreting Shakespeare, in whose plays there is always more or less psychology, how much more is it the best interpreter of romantic melodrama, in which there is no psychology at all! I think it a great pity that the author of "The Man in the Iron Mask" did not insist, in his contract with Mr. Norman Forbes, that all the parts should be assigned to old-fashioned mimes.* If there were not enough of them—the cast is large—in London, then others should have been brought up from the provinces. For "The Man in the Iron Mask" is just an essay in the thunder-and-lightning *genre*, and in that *genre* one demands from the mimes something more deafening than the homely chirp of the cricket, and more dazzling than the modest radiance of the night-light. Miss Rorke chirped and was modestly radiant, but did not do more. The rest of the cast was equally inadequate, except Mr. Norman Forbes, who, having undertaken to play two parts (in defiance of the fact that he was, in training and temperament, quite unsuited to either of them), seemed to me to be just doubly inadequate.

I have received five letters—"been inundated with correspondence" is, I believe, the correct phrase—gravely censuring me for having written "*double entendre*" last week instead of "*double entente*." With all deference to the five Zoileans, and with all thanks to them for their trouble, I beg to assure them that I never do anything without some good reason. The reason why I wrote "*double entendre*" is that this is the form which is almost invariably used in England, and that it was therefore technically the right form to use in connexion with the English theatre and the English public. "*Double entente*" would not have conveyed so easily or so exactly what I wished to suggest. Of course, it is better French. And "*double meaning*" is better English. But Englishmen—it is one of their most deliciously characteristic habits—always safeguard their own virtue by calling any questionable elements in their own lives by French names, and as often as not by names which are not even good French. Thus do they both defame their neighbours and debase their neighbours' language, adding insult to injury, Fasheda to Waterloo. "*Double entendre*" is an instance of this habit, and it was, consequently, the right phrase for my purpose in last week's criticism. I am sorry to have had to explain my point so pedantically. It is one of those technical points which a skilled writer would immediately see for himself, but which cannot be explained to the public without some trouble. Let the five members of the public who have remonstrated with me about "*double entendre*" save their ink next time they fancy they detect me in an unconscious blunder. But, if they *must* write to me, let them send me letters of congratulation whenever I write a French phrase which seems to them correct.

MAX.

BIZET'S "CARMEN."

A FRIEND of mine wished to publish some translations he had made; and he sent to a certain nameless firm of publishers, as a specimen of his work, his version of Prosper Mérimée's "Carmen." The publishers duly returned the manuscript after a lapse of two or three years, with their reader's judgment. It was that my friend showed great originality, power and literary skill in handling his subject; but unfortunately the moral tone of the subject left much to be desired. The popularisation, he added, of such a story would tend to lower the pure morals of the British people. Unluckily the lowering of the pure morals of the British people had been going on at a great pace through the popularisation of the story; though the instrument of demoralisation was not my friend, but one of whom pro-

bably the Great Infallible of the publisher's back-shop had never heard, Georges Bizet. "Lohengrin" and "Faust" have been said to be the most frequently sung operas in England, and certainly "Carmen" makes no specially poignant appeal to Wifely emotions of the German Haus-frau; but in England Bizet runs Wagner and Gounod close in the race for popularity, and if we could get statistics from the whole of Europe, so as to include France, I think we should find "Carmen" first, or very near the first, on the list. And despite the Great Infallible's fears, the morals of Europe, or at least of England, do not seem much worse than before "Carmen" was written. This may be because they could not be worse than they were in the seventies; it may be, however, that the story moves on a plane so far removed from real life as to be incapable of affecting it. For let no one make any mistake here: the story of "Carmen" is not a lovely and wholesome story—it is the story of a drab, of a gutter courtesan, who seduces and ruins a wretched Tommy Atkins, and gets murdered by him at the finish. But just as Browning so handled a similar story, which Carlyle described as simply an Old Bailey case, that many people who show no other sign of insanity think "The Ring and the Book" genuine poetry, so Bizet has wrapped and hidden the true Carmen in a haze, a web of enchanting, fascinating and ear-haunting melodies, so that Nietzsche, going mad, tried to cool and soothe his over-excited brain with the perfect workmanship, the light and lightness, the grace, purity and beauty, of a masterpiece which he reckoned worth all Wagner's music-dramas taken together. Had Nietzsche recovered, instead of practically ending his life in a lunatic asylum, this verdict would have remained as one of the oddest ever uttered.

To me the opera is both fascinating and loathsome; and a comparison I lately made of the average French representation with the average English one showed me why. In England even a French prima donna is compelled for the sake of decent appearance, if not from a regard for that pure moral tone of the British people so dear to the Great Infallible, to avoid the manœuvres and antics by which she wins the approbation and great love of a Parisian audience. The Tommy Atkins, Don José, has also to suppress the indications of physical passion which please a Parisian audience. More is made of the music, of the romantic environment of the drama, than of the bestial and disgusting side of the story. I am not more squeamish than other people, and I have often seen nothing but innocent and harmless fun in things which other people have assured me were entirely shocking and wicked; but I must confess to leaving the Opéra Comique after a representation of "Carmen" with a distinctly disagreeable taste in my mouth. Surely the hypocrisy of pretending to like impropriety for impropriety's sake, no matter how witless and meaningless it may be, is quite as abominable as religious or moral hypocrisy. One revolts against a picture depicting the world and humanity as a herd of swine wallowing in filth. I feel after the Opéra Comique as I feel after hearing Wagner's later version of the Venusberg music in "Tannhäuser;" only there the evil-smelling matter is the music, while the music of "Carmen" is always sweet and fresh, and only the characters of the story can be made—indeed, in their essence, are—rank. But there is another difference between the French and the English (or German) version. In France they insist on playing "Carmen" as grand opera, as high tragedy, and so, even without the intention of tickling jaded Parisian nerves by frank or covert impropriety, the result is the same; for the characters being, in their essence, animals of unpleasing instincts and habits, one is made to feel that fact when the characters are taken seriously and played by great artists with intensity, conscientiousness and courage. I infinitely prefer to treat the work as light-opera, as fantastic, removed from real life; and I know I am justified in this preference. For the music of "Carmen" is not the music of high tragedy. Bizet was incapable of writing the greatest kind of music; and though he attempted symphonies and the like, in "Carmen" it is only too obvious that he had dismounted the high horse. There is not a genuinely grand phrase in it, not a bar bearing the stamp of an indubitably great

* Since I wrote these words, I have read in one of the morning papers that Mr. Norman Forbes himself was the author. So perhaps there was no contract for him to insist in.—MAX.

mind ; there is not a phrase that would not be spoiled if it were delivered in the grand manner. We have here no "Don Giovanni" or even "Figaro." "Carmen" never rises even to the seriousness of "Faust." What Bizet attempted was the writing of a pretty, romantic, animated, gaudy and brilliant opera ; and he achieves so much that one cannot deny "Carmen's" place as the most brilliant opera of the century. No composer has lived with a completer command of a brilliant and convincing style. It is not the highest style ; but it is a genuine and a distinct one.

I do not know of any life of Georges Bizet written from a reasonably critical and at the same time an appreciative standpoint. He is regarded by the learned musicians, I am afraid, rather as a mountebank, or rather—it is the only word that will serve—as an "outsider." For the most part his admirers are little better than the admirers of Messrs. Cowen, and the popular purveyors of drawing-room sweetmeats ; they "like" him, and if, as they suppose, it is wrong to like him, that must be the fault of their bad taste, for they cannot explain why they like him. As a mere matter of fact, he was neither an "outsider" nor a purveyor of sweetmeats, but a musician, highly gifted in some respects but in certain others very limited, who lived subject to influences that might have compelled a more definite, self-contained, genius to commit the faults he committed. Nature endowed him with wonderful facility, and as is too often her way, failed to grant him the depth of feeling and yearning to express himself, and only himself, which save the big men who also have facility from gabbling a good deal of commonplace. She gave him what can only be called the gift of brilliance : everything he did was brilliant : his piano-playing, his operas and other music, even, in a way, his letters. Had he turned to letters instead of to music, he would have been an exceptionally brilliant journalist, a kind of French Andrew Lang. So gifted, with so little to guard him against the defects of his gifts, he was thrown into French musical society at a time when French tastes and ideals were nearly, but not quite, as low as they are to-day. I am not sure that this was so bad a thing for Bizet as it might have been for a French Wagner ; it seems unlikely that in any other circumstances he would have written better music, or even music so good ; but, anyhow, it ensured his writing the kind of music he ultimately wrote. Halévy, a glib composer, with a keen desire to do well what anyone else had created a taste for by doing better, became his father-in-law ; and doubtless influenced the young man by pointing out the shortest route to success. Meyerbeer was as popular then as he is to-day in Paris ; Wagnerism was still held in Paris to be synonymous. Bizet had to write to please the audience that loved Meyerbeer and declined to hear Wagner. As I have implied, had he tried to write better music he might now be with the forgotten many who have aimed high and fallen low ; as it was, he wrote "Carmen," and two or three other things that have survived.

Just as the book of "Don Giovanni" was admirably adapted to the genius of Mozart, and the book of "Orpheo" to Gluck's genius, so was the book of "Carmen" precisely the book Bizet needed to draw from him his best music. To begin with, that gift of brilliance helped him to the effect of glaring sunshine, of almost intolerable torrid heat, which is the necessary environment, background and atmosphere in which the drama is enacted. This story of fierce aching lust and madness and jealousy must be steeped in the fierce sunshine of a country of cloudless skies ; the joyous brightness of the day can never seem too bright ; a shadow would bring the drama out of the realm of unreality to the plane of everyday life, and ruin it and make it disgusting, just as the realism of the French interpretation ruins it and makes it disgusting. Such things as the music played in, the overture and repeated afterwards, the too well-known Toreador song, the opening chorus, the music of the procession in the last act—it is scarcely an exaggeration, though it may be rendering one's impression in a rather too forcible way, to say that these seem to throw out heat and to scatter light over the scene. Then one must be made to feel the Gipsy fascination and wild seductiveness of Carmen ;

and this was a task which evidently fitted Bizet ; with such exquisiteness has he done it. Her "Love will like a wild birdling fly," her careless, almost divinely graceful snatches of song in answer to the officer's interrogations, the melody which she sings and dances to in the second act (she boasts that she made it herself, and is, justly, proud of it)—these are amongst the perfectly achieved things of music, though not necessarily amongst the greatest things—indeed they are not amongst them. But they were well worth doing ; and they are done with a rare buoyancy and an ever-present sense of easy mastery. Perhaps the finest thing given to her, perhaps the finest in the opera, is her "Over the hills." That curious longing to take the road and to wander far which seems to attack every nation and most individuals at one period or another of their existence, and which has found expression, I suppose, in nearly every literature, is here rendered with a wonderful romantic and mysterious charm. Michaela has one or two fine melodies ; and Don José has some too showy tunes for a ragamuffin common soldier. It is in such songs as are given to him that we feel Bizet's ease degenerating into idle volubility. Though he had in him a considerable strain of the romanticist, he was trained according to what the Parisian musicians of his day called classical traditions ; and melodies classical in outline ran from his pen, when there was nothing in the words to inspire him, as freely as from the pen of the mighty Halévy himself. A host of composers—Hérold, for instance—in his time, and before it, had earned an "undying fame" of some twenty or thirty years, by pouring out such stuff for a world eager to imbibe it ; and it is not surprising that the trick did not seem so dangerous to Bizet as it does now to us. Even in the wondrous "Over the hills"—for examples, bars 5-13 on page 125 of the English edition—there are glib passages better adapted to the violin than the voice, and of no effect to be spoken of even on the violin. But in spite of far too much of that volubility, "Carmen" stands as one of the brightest, gayest, most healthy, and as certainly the most brilliant, opera in existence.

J. F. R.

FINANCE.

IN spite of the absence of any further disquieting political news the Stock Markets have been very inactive during the week. It was to be expected that the visit of Mr. Rhodes to Berlin and the apparently friendly spirit in which his proposals have been received by the Emperor William and by the German press would have an effect upon Chartered. In reality the effect has been slight, and although some Rhodesian sub-companies' shares have been more favourably affected, Chartered have scarcely moved at all, whence it may be gathered that for the moment the public is disinclined to speculate. On this occasion, therefore, it seems probable that the superstitious belief in the unfavourable character of a nineteen-day account which exists in the minds of Stock Exchange operators will be justified, although it is the fact that the Easter holidays will follow close upon the next Settlement which is responsible for most of the dulness. The general markets have shown a sagging tendency and prices have eased off under the pressure of a very few profit-taking sales. The downward movement has, however, been of little importance, and has only contributed to a greater firmness of tone, the political outlook being more settled than has been the case for some time and trade continuing to show unmistakable signs of increasing activity. A very small increase in the public interest in the Stock Markets will suffice to cause a revival of activity, since the general position is healthy and there has of late been no over-speculation in any department.

The rather firmer tendency of the Money Market may have had some effect in diminishing the amount of business on the Stock Exchange. The loans due to be repaid to the Bank of England at the end of the week had to be renewed and day to day money has been firmer at $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., as against $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent. last week. The three months' discount rate is, how-

ever, only a trifle higher at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the Bank rate remains unchanged at 3 per cent. The Bank return on Thursday showed practically no change in the position, the reserve remaining unaffected although the ratio of reserve to liabilities has fallen 1 per cent. to $43\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. On the corresponding date last year the proportion was $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. lower than it is at the present time. A large amount of money has evidently been borrowed from the Bank during the week as "other" securities are up £1,145,000, nearly £1,000,000 of which appears to have gone to increase the "other" deposits. Government disbursements would now, however, seem to have recommenced on a large scale, since, notwithstanding the enormous increase in the revenue receipts during the closing weeks of the financial year, the public deposits have only been increased by £207,000. This fact, other things being equal, should shortly contribute to greater ease in the Money Market. The present increased firmness is quite normal and expected, and fully justifies our previous forecasts. The Government disbursements will be still heavier on and after the 25th of this month, and as these will coincide with the termination of the present long account it is possible that during and after the holidays there will be a period of ease. Neither in New York nor in Berlin does the monetary outlook display any specially disquieting features.

Home Rails have been the firmest market of the week, the continued increases in the traffic receipts having at last had their effect. Great Easterns have again come into favour with investors, and have risen steadily from 122 last week to 125 at the close on Thursday. This company reported a traffic increase for the week of £6,162, making an aggregate increase since the beginning of the year of £44,700, a good showing, though not so good as those of several other lines. The considerations we have repeatedly urged upon investors respecting the value of Brighton "A" in point of interest-yield seem also at last to have had their effect, the stock having risen $2\frac{1}{2}$ since last week. The opening of the Great Central for passenger traffic has depressed Midland and Great Northern stocks, the Deferred of the former company being down $1\frac{1}{2}$ at 88 $\frac{1}{2}$, and of the latter $1\frac{1}{2}$ at 61, and the various Great Central issues have correspondingly improved. Nevertheless we consider that Midland and Great Northern Deferred are excellent investment stocks at their present prices. The traffic receipts of the two companies since the beginning of the year show the large increases of £91,000 and £43,000 respectively, whilst last week the Midland had again a big increase of £12,000 and the Great Northern of £4,000. The published train service of the Great Central shows that for the moment at least its competition with the two other companies cannot hope to be very effective and it will apparently be some months before its road-bed will be sufficiently consolidated to permit of running trains at the speeds which are the rule on the competing systems. The worst which in our opinion can be expected is that the Midland and Great Northern traffics will be prevented from increasing as they are increasing at present and since this will leave the dividend prospects unchanged we do not see any reason to qualify our former favourable opinion, expressed on several occasions, with regard to the position of Midland Deferred and Great Northern "A" and Deferred. It is to be remembered, moreover, that the great increase in expenditure last year on the two systems was due to the necessity of preparing to meet the threatened competition and that with the actual inauguration of a rival service the necessity for that increased expenditure must be to a large extent removed.

The South-Eastern and London Chatham and Dover Companies have succeeded in passing the second reading of their Amalgamation Bill in the House of Commons by a very large majority and though some fears are expressed as to what may happen to the measure in Committee the main point has now been achieved by the definite acceptance of the principle of the Bill. The violent opposition it has met with in some quarters can scarcely be described as other than factious and

it has found practically no sympathisers amongst the business community. It is not so much that competition is not sometimes a good thing in railway matters. It would be dangerous, for instance, if two of the big Northern lines sought power to amalgamate. But the position of the two Kent railways is wholly different. In the first place in their case the value of competition has proved wholly illusory, for it has led solely to waste and inefficiency. It has been tried long enough to demonstrate its failure, and it is quite time that combination should have a chance. Whatever happens, the services of the two companies, and especially that of the Chatham line, cannot well be worse than they are at present, and since the companies have to pay the price for permission from Parliament to amalgamate in the shape of increased facilities and better terms for the public the change is certain to result in some improvement. But there is a further consideration which puts the two Kent companies into quite another category as compared with the Northern lines. These latter link together great industrial centres which provide enough traffic for several competing lines and they pass through quite separate agricultural districts. The South-Eastern and Chatham lines serve the same districts, and have unfortunately for them no large industrial towns on their systems. The areas they serve continually overlap and their competition means simply that two persons are always employed to do the work which one could do equally well. By the amalgamation a very large saving must necessarily be made in working expenses and in the cost of management and it is just this economy which will enable the combined companies to give that improved service and accommodation for which the opposition to the Bill clamours. It is the Chatham and Dover Company which stands to gain most from the combination and now that the Bill has passed its second reading we consider that its Second Preference and Ordinary stocks are an excellent speculative investment.

Our advice to give the American market a wide berth at the present juncture has been fully justified by the event. During the week there has been a decided reaction in American rails, and on Thursday there was an exciting day in New York, for the violent oscillations of certain industrial stocks there made it impossible for anyone to know quite where he stood for five minutes at a time. The whole position now hinges upon the future of the Money Market in New York and to-day's Bank statement is awaited with some anxiety. Whether it is because of the large export of securities to America or not, it is clear that hitherto New York has not found it possible to make an effective demand for gold in London, and such relief as has been afforded to the tight Money Market there has been due to the influx of money from the interior. The speculation in American industrials and the combine mania have undoubtedly been overdone, and if it should topple to its fall American railroad securities, which are the only ones in which we take much interest on this side, must necessarily be affected. On the other hand the movement of trade and industry in the United States is not less certainly very real and important and it may in the end enable the New York market to get over its difficulties without a crisis. He would be rash, therefore, who ventured to prophesy what will be the future course of affairs in this department and the safest advice is to stand aside and let others win or lose. A point of danger to be remembered is, however, that there is a good deal of American money at present engaged in Berlin and its sudden withdrawal would in all probability lead to a strained situation in the German capital precisely similar to that which occurred last year when the French support of German houses was withdrawn.

The copper market has undergone some vicissitudes since we last wrote and for a time it seemed possible that a very necessary reaction had set in. But the announcement that the much-talked-of copper combine, engineered by the Standard Oil Trust, was a reality gave new encouragement to the speculators and a recovery in the price of copper imparted renewed firmness to copper-mining shares. We have reason to believe

that affairs are not nearly so far advanced as is stated. No doubt the Standard Oil Trust already controls several American mines, but no combine can possibly be successful which does not include the Anaconda Company, and though some tentative efforts have been made to obtain control of this important producer our information is that the Standard Oil Company has not succeeded in obtaining any appreciable number of shares. The whole business is now apparently nothing but a mad gamble and should be avoided. Stocks, according to the latest statistics, are now slightly higher and there is no doubt that the great appreciation in the price of the metal during the past twelve months will lead to an enormously increased production as soon as the new mines already developing get to work. Consequently the present boom cannot possibly be maintained very long and those will be wisest who get out most quickly.

The recent reaction in Kaffirs seems to have reached its culmination on Thursday afternoon when a determined effort was made by the "bears" to depress quotations. They were successful for a time owing to a rumour which was diligently spread through the House that the negotiations between the leaders of the mining industry and the Transvaal Government had been finally abandoned. What had really occurred was precisely the opposite, for at a meeting of the heads of the big South African houses on Thursday there was complete unanimity in the desire to arrive at an amicable understanding with President Kruger. We were the first to announce the important fact that these negotiations were actually in progress and were then careful to point out that they had nothing to do with a cancellation of the dynamite monopoly or any other of the absurd rumours which have been disseminated, and which if believed could only result in disappointment. The tendency of the negotiations is quite general and the most important feature connected with them is that the first advances were made, not by the mining industry, but by President Kruger and his advisers. What the leaders of the industry have done has been to respond cordially to these first advances on the part of the Transvaal Executive, and the result, if President Kruger is sincere, may be a relaxation of the tension, which has always existed and which has been the more severe since the Jameson raid, between the leading financiers of the Kaffir market and the Transvaal Government. A change from the jealous and suspicious attitude President Kruger has always maintained to one of amity and co-operation with the gold-mining industry will necessarily benefit enormously the mines of the Witwatersrand and will make it possible to overcome at last the long-standing difficulties connected with the supply of native labour, the liquor traffic and the thefts of gold which have in the past sorely hampered their operations. What the immediate effect upon the market of this radical change in the condition of affairs in the Transvaal will be remains to be seen, but it is clear that the big houses are opposed to any semblance of a boom and that what they desire is a steady improvement in the market based upon the merits of the mines. Moreover the negotiations are as yet only in their initial stage, but if, as we believe will be the case, they end satisfactorily, in the long run there is certain to be a very considerable advance in values in that section of the South African market devoted to the mines of the Transvaal.

The new issue of shares by the Randfontein Estates which is shortly to be made is rather a large demand upon the confidence of the public in Mr. J. B. Robinson. It is understood that the issued capital of the company is to be increased by 1,000,000 £1 shares, of which 500,000 will shortly be offered to the shareholders pro rata at £3 apiece: that is to say £1,500,000 is asked for as an instalment. The past history of the Randfontein companies does not seem to us to justify in any way this enormous increase. The issue of debentures by the South Rose Deep Company, a subsidiary of the Consolidated Goldfields Company, is of a very different character. Issues of debentures by South African mining companies of good standing have been not only

popular but extremely profitable to those who have subscribed for them. The unexpected richness of the Rose Deep Mine in its lower levels makes the prospects of the South Rose Deep exceedingly favourable, and since the debentures, of which £300,000 are to be issued, bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent. and are convertible into shares at £3 10s. per share, they should be eagerly subscribed.

The Rhodesian market has been active during the week and the shares of the producing mines, notably those of the Geelong Company, show substantial advances. The Rhodesian finance companies have also benefited, but as we have already pointed out the effect upon Chartered has been very slight. The activity of the market has brought into notice various companies which have been little heard of since the rinderpest and other accidents effectually stopped operations two years ago. One of these, Vincent's Rhodesia, which was favourably reported upon by the British South Africa Company's mining commissioner, is now resuming operations, and as it has funds in hand sufficient to erect a mill and its properties have been developed far enough to give fair prospects of success the £1 shares at 7s. seem a cheap though somewhat speculative purchase. It is not quite clear whether Mr. Rhodes, whilst in Berlin, entered into any negotiations with regard to railways in German East Africa, the territory in which the South-West Africa Company is deeply interested. We learn, however, that the Berlin financial house, the Disconto-Gesellschaft, has agreed to contribute half the cost of constructing the railway necessary to open up and develop the rich copper deposits the South-West Africa Company has discovered. How rich the deposits are is not yet known, but the insiders speak very highly of the prospects of the district.

The Alliance Assurance Company this year together with its annual accounts issues a valuation report. The fire account shows that the premium income was £543,729, of which 56 per cent. was absorbed in payment of claims, and 36 per cent. in expenses. Both these items are heavier than usual, the claims especially being much in excess of the average. It is somewhat difficult to account for such a heavy loss ratio, for the Alliance is by no means a company to take a bad class of business. The shareholders receive the same dividend as usual, namely 8s. per £20 share with £2 4s. paid up, the result being that the balance of the profit and loss account is £90,000 instead of £100,000 as it was last year. The life account shows a larger amount of new business than in any previous year, the new assurances for the first time exceeding £1,000,000 and the new premiums being £42,325. The total premium income was £322,944, of which expenses absorbed 10 per cent. in accordance with the arrangements adopted in 1895. Inasmuch as the new business was proportionately large, the expenses work out at the exceptionally low rate of 46 per cent. of the new premiums and 46 of renewals. The life claims were appreciably heavier than usual, being £222,638 as compared with £197,000 in 1897.

The report of the actuarial investigation shows that the liabilities were valued on the same 3 per cent. basis as was adopted both five and ten years ago. This rate does not leave a very large margin when compared with the 3½ per cent. earned upon the funds during 1898. The net result of the valuation shows a surplus earned during the five years of £313,462. Of this amount £310,000 is divided, £248,000 going to the participating policy-holders and £62,000 to the proprietors. The details of the bonuses that this amount will yield in old policies are not given and there is nothing to show whether they are better or worse than they were five years ago. The policies issued in 1894 and since receive a bonus of 30s. per cent. per annum, which is not specially good considering that the Alliance premiums at most ages are by no means low. The £62,000 paid to the shareholders is equivalent to about 4½ per cent. of the premiums received during the five years, and if this amount be added to the expenses the management no longer appears so

economical, although even with this addition the expenses were below the average. The total funds of the company now exceed four and three-quarter millions and under the control of a board of which Lord Rothschild is the chairman they appear to be excellently invested, although the details of the assets are somewhat scanty.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE REVISION OF ESTABLISHMENT.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Huyton, Liverpool, 13 March, 1899.

SIR,—Your seasonable article on this subject will, I doubt not, be read with sympathetic interest by those who wish prosperity to the Church of England. You do well to remind your readers that the Evangelical party—the religious portion of the Evangelical party of course you mean—is not in sympathy with the designs of the ultra-Protestants who masquerade in its name, and that the extreme Ritualism of a few unwise clergymen does not represent the mind of the mass of reasonable High Churchmen; and it is true that the authors of the manifesto of the English Church Union apparently do not wish their declaration to be taken too seriously. Moreover, it cannot reasonably be denied that the present terms of "Establishment" need more or less revision.

What, however, the public generally do not seem to understand is the real aim of those who are carrying on the present agitation—the supporters and instructors of Mr. John Kensit and opponents of the Bishops, whose political leader is Sir William Vernon Harcourt, whose most eminent ecclesiastical patrons are understood to be the Bishops of Liverpool and Sodor and Man, and whose ideas and wishes generally find expression in the sayings and doings of the Church Association. Yet, up and down the country, here and there and everywhere, the agents and lecturers of the Church Association are constantly declaiming against "prelatical traitors" and Lord Salisbury's dispensation of ecclesiastical patronage, as if they would be content with nothing short of such a reform in Church and State as would render membership in the former intolerable to all save their own party, or, as an alternative, "disestablishment." They do not *desire* the latter, it is true, but in their efforts to exclude from the Church the "Sacerdotalists" they willingly, and even eagerly, seek the co-operation of the most violent political Dissenters, whose theological and ecclesiastical ideas are in general agreement with their own. Seemingly, they would prefer the breaking up and disestablishment of the Church to a continuance of the broad toleration which, as the Reformed Church of England, it now gives to men of different schools.

In order to justify the agitation, laborious attempts are made to impress on the public mind an idea which is contrary to both historical fact and the traditions of the National Church. That idea is that the Church was founded in the sixteenth century for the purpose of teaching Church Association Protestantism, and that it is properly, truly and adequately represented by the House of Commons, although that assembly now includes "Jews, Turks, Infidels and Heretics," Papists, Dissenters of all sorts, and men who are not even professedly Christian. Convocation, the agitators urge, is not, and ought not to be, entitled to the exercise of any authority, and the bishops, it is contended, are merely State officers who ought to carry into effect Church Association "law," or be deprived of their sees and deposed from the Episcopal office.

Such, briefly and roughly described, is the situation as I think it must be regarded by fair-minded observers who take the trouble to acquaint themselves with current circumstances.

That the "establishment has reached paralysis in the important matter of the courts" is a fact too evident to be denied, and it is satisfactory to learn that the Archbishops are doing the best they can to remedy present grievances. Lord Halifax is, I think, wise in advising clergymen of his following to plead before the Archbishops' newly proposed tribunal in case of need. An ideal court, such as he desires, is not a possible one at

present. Perhaps it will not be formed while the Church remains established, and therefore he—and indeed all reasonable Churchmen—will do well to support the Bill for reforming or reconstructing the Court of Final Appeal in ecclesiastical causes. A pretty sure sign that the move the Primates are making is one in the right direction, is visible in the hostility to it manifested by Church Associationists and other supporters of Sir William Vernon Harcourt. It is, as you say, "of the first importance that the good sense of thoughtful men should be brought to bear on the Church question;" but such good sense and the party rancour and lawless spirit of incorrigible malcontents, and especially the factious spirit of the anti-bishop agitation, must be inevitably opposed.—I am, &c.

E. RIDGWAY.

THE HOPE FOR ENGLISH OPERA.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Riviera Palace, Nice, 12 March, 1899.

SIR,—J. F. R.'s article on Opera contained many wholesome truths; but the writer surely missed the controlling factor of the whole matter? Surely it is that being a commercial people we always expect opera to be a commercial success, which it never can be. No one has ever made it "pay;" but trying to do so, is surely the secret of its bad state in England. Other nations can't make it pay. But we are accustomed to think nothing is good that is not a financial success. Hence managers play the same old favourites over and over again, striving to make receipts equal expenses, and seldom dare to bring out anything fresh, unless it has already received a reputation abroad. For we take everything from abroad; the foreign managers take nothing from us. They pay no attention whatever to what is going on in the London Opera. For this reason Mr. Villiers Stanford and other English composers have taken their operas abroad and have had there successes denied to them at home. Commissions are of very little use, because it is not a commission that the true and cultivated musician wants; but recognition by his own countrymen. Until an opera house is *open to them* they will not write *English* opera at all; but will continue to write operas in German style and have them played in Germany.

We can never be an artistic nation, till at least the well-educated part of us ceases to apply to Art (and Literature) the same principles of value as it applies to coals or cheese.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. B. MONEY COUTTS.

THE DAISY AND ITS KELTIC LEGEND.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

The Limes, Elmstead, Colchester, 13 March, 1899.

SIR,—In return for the interest felt in and pleasure derived from Mr. Hudson's excellent and suggestive article in your last number on "The Human in Floral Colours," and in atonement for my "fault" in a small degree, would you kindly allow me to say how naturally Mr. Hudson, when he touches the daisy, might have referred to or quoted the daisy's Keltic legend? It was the belief of the Keltic people that when an infant was taken away from earth a flower was sent. Malvina lost her infant son, and was inconsolable; sat brooding lonely, and would not look out even upon the sunshine. At length some of her attendants returned from a journey, full of something new. They found the sorrowing mother sitting like a statue. "Oh, Malvina, your infant has come back, come back—a wondrous new flower has come to earth—white are its leaves near the heart, but nearer the edges tinged with pink or crimson like an infant's flesh. When the wind waves it on the hillside, you might say that there an infant in play moves from side to side. Oh, Malvina, come, come, and see it." And Malvina rose and looked upon her flower and no more mourned, saying, "This flower, Malvina's son returned, will comfort all mothers that have lost their infants."

About cuckoos: Mr. Rowley ("Ibis" 1865, pp. 178-9) tells that he has taken eggs of the cuckoo as late as 29 July, and Mr. J. H. Gurney found a young cuckoo unable to fly on 28 July. Clearly, the

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adult cuckoos could not have waited to turn the eggs and young out of the nest Mr. Rowley saw, and the question is, Who turns out the eggs and young in such belated cases, as I know they are turned out? Is it the young cuckoo, or is it the victimised birds? These are the only two that could do it.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.

ALEXANDER H. JAPP.

[In the article on the cuckoo, in the SATURDAY REVIEW of 4 March, the name "Ray" should have been "Rey;" the allusion being to Dr. Rey, whose study of the life-history of the cuckoo has been of such value to ornithologists, and not to John Ray the great naturalist of the seventeenth century, described by Pulteney as "the Aristotle of England." Mr. Japp's account of the cuckoo's blue egg, found by a friend of his in a nightingale's nest, is novel as well as interesting, as is also his account of the magpie eating hairy caterpillars. One writer has stated that the cuckoo's blue egg is never found except in the redstart's or pied flycatcher's nest, and many besides Mr. Grant Allen are, we think, responsible for the assertion that *Cuculus canorus* is the only bird in this country which devours hairy caterpillars. Though the young cuckoo, after arriving at a certain age, undoubtedly ejects eggs as well as young, which share its quarters, we are convinced (with Jenner) that the foster-parent sometimes turns out her unhatched eggs as soon as the young cuckoo is hatched—a matter with which we may deal at some future time.—ED. S. R.]

THE MUSCAT MISUNDERSTANDING.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

London, 13 March, 1899.

SIR,—With respect to your leader in the SATURDAY REVIEW of the 11th inst. on the "Muscat Misunderstanding," may I ask who or what was the French Agent? Was he a Consul or a Chargé d'affaires?

If only a Consul, had he authority or power to "sneak" a treaty? Having "sneaked" it, as a "real smart" officer, why keep the meritorious action secret from his Government?

Was it that his "trop de zèle" was inconvenient at headquarters, and, consequently, to be ignored till some more fitting opportunity?

Meanwhile the English Government got wind of the dark treaty, and acted.

Far from me to blame Monsieur Delcassé for his diplomatic disavowal of his assent! "La parole nous est donnée pour déguiser la pensée," said Talleyrand, and in such matters the indiscreet agent is thrown overboard. It was such underhand action by a French Consular officer (Monsieur François Deloncle) which cost King Thibau the throne of Burmah, and numerous other instances can be given where the imprudent action of an over-zealous officer has been denied.

Yours faithfully,
Ex-CONSUL.

"A ROMANISING CAUCUS."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Sir William Harcourt's hasty flout at a "romanising caucus" has not evoked the serious protests which it deserved. When will the silly Protestant herd realise that Anglicanism is the stoutest of the Church's bulwarks against Roman aggression; that the Papal propaganda, if it has not instigated recent Protestant excesses, is jubilant over the impression they have made; in a word, that those who mislike a crude materialistic Christianity need a refuge, at once elevating and patriotic, within the National Church? The reception accorded to recent travellers by Orthodox ecclesiastics in Russia and Servia, besides pointing to a possibility of eventual reunion, serves to indicate the direction which refugees may take if their position should be rendered intolerable within the Anglican communion. And in the eye of Rome there are none so heterodox as the Orthodox establishments.

I have the honour to subscribe myself, Sir, your very humble, very obedient servant,

HERBERT VIVIAN.

REVIEWS.

THE EUROPEAN OCCUPATION OF INDIA.

"A History of British India." By Sir W. W. Hunter. Vol. I. London: Longmans, Green. 1899.

SIR W. W. HUNTER'S original intention was to write a complete history of India from the very earliest period. Unhappily the material collected during long years in out of the way corners of India was lost in a wreck, and the project has been narrowed down to a History of British India. The volume now published deals mainly with the commercial intercourse of Europe and India in the centuries preceding the appearance of England on the scene. The history of early Indo-European trade is the history of those nations who commanded the three well-marked land routes which that trade followed. The Jew, the Babylonian, the Persian, the Greek, the Roman, the Saracen and the Republics of the Mediterranean move in turn across the stage. Each for a time controls, restricts or encourages the commerce by which his nation is enriched. The first act in the world-drama ends with the triumph of the Ottoman arms and the rise of their naval power. In the struggle between Christendom and Islam all the Eastern approaches from India were blocked by sea and land. The struggle was thereby transferred to another scene. Strangled in the East, partly by the triumph of the Turks, partly by the monopoly to which Venice still clung, the Indian trade sought out the ocean track which it was believed lay open round Africa. The credit for the initiation of this enterprise rests wholly with Portugal. It received its first impulse from the great half-English pioneer, Prince Henry the Navigator. Supported by the strong line of Aviz kings, it lasted through eight decades. By the end of the fifteenth century, Vasco da Gama had led his fleet across the Indian Ocean and anchored at Calicut. The nations of Europe were now for the first time brought into direct contact with India. Nor is this all. The relations between East and West ceased to be purely commercial. The epoch of conquest had begun, and the conception of European sovereignty in India, which perished with Alexander, was revived by the Portuguese.

In the century which was to elapse before English fleets appeared in Indian waters, Portugal crushed the sea-power of the Moslems east of Aden, established strong naval bases at commanding points on the African, Persian and Indian coasts, spread her conquests to the Spice Islands and planted her government in the Malay Peninsula. To appreciate the subsequent achievements of England it is necessary to bear firmly in mind that Portugal never penetrated beyond the sea-coast of India. Her operations were confined to the acquisition of naval stations and a narrow adjoining territory from which she could draw supplies. In the zenith of her power, the area of her Indian possessions scarcely exceeded what she holds to-day. Exclusive commerce was the chief aim of Portuguese, Dutch and English alike. In those early days the stronghold of lucrative trade was held to lie in the Archipelago and the efforts of each nation in turn were directed to secure the monopoly. India, as Sir W. W. Hunter puts it, was a halfway house for the richer traffic of the Spice Islands. She, in fact, was only an incident in the struggle for the greater prize. No European nation had then contemplated a sovereignty extending from Ceylon to the Himalayas. That conception grew in later days and by slow degrees. It may have entered into the dreams of Bussy and Dupleix. The glory of its realisation is all our own. These considerations should modify Sir W. W. Hunter's view that England has been but the residuary legatee of an inheritance amassed by other European nations, and that the story of the Portuguese in India is an epic, compared to which the early labours of England are plain prose. Portuguese achievements were more picturesque perhaps and certainly more theatrical; but the achievements of England surpass them in greatness and are hardly less rich in romance.

The early success of Portugal was due to the dynastic energy of a single House. Her people lacked the firmness of character and the capacity for sustained effort necessary to expansion or to maintenance of dominion.

The East overpowered them. Corruption luxury and sloth succeeded the endurance and daring by which their position was won. Sir W. W. Hunter's picture of Goa in its greatness and decline fully explains why Portugal failed to hold her own. When nepotism and immorality reign supreme, when offices of State are sold by auction or bartered for degrading considerations, when mercenary aliens fill the army and man the fleet, when men have lost their valour and women their virtue, the end of a nation is not far off. Portuguese supremacy in the East was maintained by her naval power; when it was crushed by the destruction of the Armada she fell an easy prey. The edifice which it had taken two centuries to build crumbled in a single decade. While Holland dispossessed her of the Archipelago, England swept her fleets from the Indian seas. Her departure left the two Protestant sea-powers of Europe to fight for the commerce of the East. By a natural process of evolution rival East India companies were brought simultaneously into existence to organise the trade and secure its monopoly. Earlier activity on the part of the Dutch and the national support accorded to their enterprise secured them the most coveted prize—the exclusive possession of the Spice Islands. The chain of events which ended with the massacre of Amboyna left them in undisputed control of the Archipelago, and directed the efforts of the English to strengthening the hold they had meanwhile gained on India. The volume ends at this point where the main purpose of the history begins. Thus accident or destiny or, to call it by another name, the resultant of conflicting forces, determined the scene of England's greatest triumph.

From the events so far recorded Sir W. W. Hunter deduces two lessons. No European nation has won supremacy in the East which was not ready to defend it with its utmost resources. Nor has any Western nation preserved its ascendancy in the East after it has lost its position in Europe. Two others are writ large across the story. One is that ascendancy in the East has fallen to that European nation which has commanded the seas and controlled the water routes by the possession of naval stations. How far the completion of railway communication on the ancient land routes may modify this principle is a problem our statesmen have to keep before them. The second lesson is that ultimate success rests with the people who, in the surroundings of the East, can maintain unimpaired the moral and physical strength of their race, and preserve their distinctive habits as well as their distinctive nationality. It is a common reproach against the English that they have held themselves aloof from the Indian natives with the insular exclusiveness of a conquering race. The experience of Portugal, Holland, and France shows that this very isolation has been one of the secrets of our strength. In the most interesting of his chapters Sir W. W. Hunter tells how the Portuguese fell back to the level of the people they governed. Later on we find a similar tendency among the Dutch in Java, and the French in Madras and Bengal. The moral of the story is that while the Dutch are drained by an interminable war in Achin, the English of to-day in India still live their own lives, retain their vigour and ascendancy, and find their cooks and butlers among the descendants of Da Costa and Soarez.

THE VERNEY MEMOIRS.

"Memoirs of the Verney Family." Compiled by Margaret M. Verney. Vol. IV. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1899.

IT is the good fortune of this country that freedom from foreign invasion and disorder at home, such as gave to the flames many of the stateliest homes in France with their priceless contents, has preserved scores of family records, which the good sense and piety of present representatives are throwing open to the public. We are thus enabled to form an accurate conception of the life led by the class which during the seventeenth century had the most to do with shaping the destinies of England. Among these records those of the Verney family, of which this volume is the fourth and concluding one, will hold a

high place. The present compiler has handled her materials with exemplary tact and reticence, and, in the last volume, no less than in its predecessors, we have to commend the judgment which has guided the selection of the papers to be published. We might easily, had the arrangement fallen into less skilful hands, have been repelled by an undigested mass of documents; but, as it is, we are carried on from page to page by a coherent narrative, which at every moment illustrates the politics, the trade, and the social life of this country from the Restoration to the Revolution. No one who wishes to understand that period should omit to read this book carefully.

As in former volumes, the family story is made to centre round Sir Ralph Verney, the head of the house, who was the best and noblest type of English country gentleman. Not only was he punctual and zealous in discharge of every public obligation, but he appears to have acted on every occasion as the friend in need of an army of relatives and dependants. There is hardly a family to be found in which there is not one member to whom the others instinctively turn for advice and material assistance. It is by no means always the head who occupies this position. In the case of Sir Ralph it was, and it seems appropriate that he should have survived almost all his contemporaries, leaving in his second son one in every way worthy to carry on the family traditions, while the careless, happy-go-lucky Edmund, who would assuredly have squandered everything, predeceased his father. This second son, John, who succeeded to the Baronetcy, and afterwards became the first Viscount Fermanagh, passed twelve years as a merchant in Aleppo along with some fifty other Englishmen. He did not make much of it. Foreign competition was considerable even in those days, and was not conducted on principles of the strictest integrity. So-called "drap de Londres" was put upon the market by France and Spain, and marked with an imitation of the English stamp. On his return, John set about finding a rich wife with more zeal than delicacy, but did not succeed till eight years later. He married three ladies in succession, all well born, well off, and good-looking. One of the most interesting chapters is that which details the elaborate and long-drawn-out wooings of Edmund, the eldest son. When at last he did secure an heiress, the poor lady proved subject to fits of depression, which rendered her quite unfit to keep in order the household of this careless, good-natured spendthrift who died leaving considerable debts.

We have many interesting glimpses of the condition of affairs during the Plague in the country districts, not far removed from London. The outbreaks were severe though sporadic, but they were nothing to compare with the wholesale terror and destruction wrought by such epidemics as the Black Death. Yet in some places it was bad enough; for two months there were fifty deaths a week in Southampton. Sometimes we find markets closed and highways diverted, as at Fenny Stratford. Sir Ralph Verney's sister, Betty, whose husband had a living near Chelmsford, writes that the Plague is there, and "thos which bee shut up would run about did not sum stand with guns ready to shoot them if they stir." But the same lady's practical mind was running on the advantages which may be reaped by the survivors in such times of national disaster, for there are "many ministers dead in their times of Mortality," and her brother may well get her husband one of the vacant livings; "the taxes here is so hi and the plas so smol that we know not whot to doo." Many of the deaths attributed to the Plague in such a time of panic may well have been brought about by some other cause, and it is quite evident that the small-pox was simultaneously raging in many places. Buckingham was sorely afflicted. In all family histories of the seventeenth and first half of the eighteenth century that fell disease is always obtruding itself. It is impossible to picture what a constant terror all classes were delivered from by Jenner's great discovery without reading the memoirs of those days. There are no less than seven references to outbreaks in these pages. In fact, it was at least as common an incident in a gentleman's life then, and for long after, as influenza may be to-day. If the "conscientious objector" read a little more, he might draw more advantage from the

lively imagination which now makes him a danger to the community. A very little study in the direction we have indicated would help him to form some conception of what an unvaccinated England means. We may also gather from some of the letters collected here what havoc was wrought in family fortunes by the great Fire of London. One family who lived on house-rents lost all but one house bringing in £18 a year, and the Verneys got up a family subscription to rebuild a relative's residence in the Temple. Perhaps one of the most graphic touches is supplied by Mrs. Isham, who describes a part of the country, which has been swept by a hurricane, as "a place as naked as the City of London"!

We have several glimpses of Chief Justice Jeffreys which do not tend to throw much new light on an unpleasant character, but we find Pollexfen, the future defender of the seven Bishops, and Holt, the future Chief Justice, in no very heroic aspect; they both refused to give their opinion on a matter arising out of an election, when the Government had acted with the most flagrant ill-faith, for they were both looking to Jeffreys for promotion. It is often easier to show a brave face in a large public matter than in an unimportant one, and here they both took a line mean enough.

From the beginning to the end this volume teems with interest. Not the least entertaining part is that which deals with Sir Ralph's swaggering, jolly brother Tom, with his tales of high life, varied with begging-letters to his brother and nephew; and the story of the unfortunate Dick Hals, who was hanged for a highwayman, and Fred Turville, who suffered for the same offence, might be matched in many family records of the time. The former once owed his escape to Moundford Bramston, whose brother John was the author of the well-known "Memoirs" published by the Camden Society. The death and burial of Sir Ralph brings this most fascinating book to a close. In spite of the "blast of a tremendous time" which he bore in his younger days, he lived and died in the old house at Claydon, which he made the centre and rallying place for all the members of his family. We must not omit to commend the admirable reproductions of some of the pictures in Claydon House which illustrate this work.

THE LAW OF WAR.

"Studies in International Law." By Professor Erskine Holland. Oxford: at the Clarendon Press. 1898.

SOME of these essays are purely ephemeral and should never have been published in book form; others, however, are of permanent interest. The right to bombard an open coast town, for instance, is a question still unsettled. In the naval manoeuvres in 1888 the "enemy's fleet" received instructions to attack any of the ports of Great Britain, and detached cruisers amused themselves by shelling watering-places on the Clyde, and threatening to bombard bathing machines in the Isle of Wight. Professor Holland energetically protested at the time that this was rank buccaneering. The most that international law allows in ordinary cases is a requisition of reasonable supplies or money contribution. There is no difficulty in showing that the wanton annihilation of open coast towns has been often condemned. Consider the lame defence set up by England for the destruction of Dieppe in 1694; the Duke of Wellington's reply to the French proposal of devastation along the English Channel "that it was unheard of among the civilised portion of mankind"; Younge's scathing denunciation of the burning of Paita in Chili in 1871 for non-payment of money as "worthy only of the most lawless pirate." A generation that knows little of the conduct of naval war scoffs at the power of rules to control it; none the less the noble emotion which thrilled the Great Republic, upon the capture of the first Spanish prize, a small trading boat whose captain did not even know that war had been declared, had to yield to law. Sufficient time had not been allowed for Spanish merchantmen to clear for Spain from American ports; so the prey had to be disgorged. The historical case is strong enough, but the argument which weighs most

with Professor Holland is that of equality on sea and land. The devastation of an unfortified town by land forces would now be impossible; the same immunity must be allowed to open ports. The Institute of International Law resolved at the Cambridge meeting in 1895, that there is no difference between the rules of law applicable to bombardment by a military and that by a naval force. This, however, seems rather a doubtful, and if applied generally a dangerous proposition. The rules of maritime warfare always have been, and probably always will be, different from those on land. The sea cannot be occupied as can the land. Difficulties of wind and wave are too great. The right of private war for purposes of pillage has disappeared in Europe for many a century; but there are several States, Spain and America amongst them, who have never given up the right to use privateers. And in any case the use of the sea as the highway of nations, the rights of neutral merchantmen in time of war to pass and repass provided they do not transgress the laws of blockade and contraband, emphasise the entire difference of the problem in the case of the sea. It may well be that swift detached cruisers, here to-day and gone to-morrow, may demand the right to deal rapid thrusts at open towns down a long coast-line, much in the same way as they have always made good their right to pick up and make prize of passing merchantmen of the enemy. It is noticeable that the native legal adviser to the Japanese Government, who has just published some opinions given to his Government during the Chino-Japanese war, expresses himself with considerable caution on this question of bombardment; though he quotes the resolutions of the Institute at Cambridge.

It is curious to find in the pages of a writer on international law so distinguished as Professor Holland the view expressed, not once but several times, that International Law is merely public opinion: there is a sense in which all law, having its root in the national will, may be called public opinion: but it is public opinion passed through a particular legislative or judicial mould, "sanctified" by a particular process, not to be undone or altered save by a second application of the same process. Then international law has its formal machinery for publication, whether that be the decree of a prize court, settlements between the Great Powers, or solemn expressions of State policy in diplomatic documents: it is true the formal rule very quickly shades off into the pious opinion, or even the philosophic doubt: but to say there is no formal rule is to give up the case for international law altogether. This may suggest no impasse to Mr. Gibson Bowles, or naval officers generally; but it might be expected to give pause to an international lawyer.

THE ROMANCE OF A QUEEN OF POLAND.

"Marysienka." By K. Waliszewski. Translated from the French by Lady Mary Loyd. London: Heinemann. 1899.

M. WALISZEWSKI, as all who know his brilliant studies of Catherine II. and Peter the Great are aware, is the avowed champion of the artistic treatment of history. He has the creative faculty, the love of colour, and, in no small measure, the histrionic sense. Of the art of representation he is a master. He makes every touch in the scene to tell, and quickens the dust and bones of the past with potent and penetrative actuality. In "Marysienka" he has given a remarkable example of this magic. The almost unknown and all-forgotten daughter of a French officer, Marysienka's life teemed with the vicissitudes, the adventures, and the triumphs of romance. At the outset of her story Marie de la Grange d'Arquien is presented to us as a small traveller in the grandiose train of Marie de Gonzague, Duchesse de Nevers, on her way from Paris to Poland to marry Ladislas IV. We see a "sweet childish face," scarcely more than four years of age, gazing wonderingly from one of the vehicles. So many pretty young ladies accompany Marie de Gonzague, it looks as if she were the head of a school. It is a charming picture, this scene of Marie

d'Arquien's *début*, and recalls, both by its pictorial quality and vivacity, Thackeray's vivid description in "The Four Georges" of Herrenhausen and its Court. Doubtless, the little Marie was the least regarded of all the company. Yet she was fated to marry a rich Polish magnate, to bewitch and fall in love with John Sobieski, and finally to marry him and become Queen of Poland on his election to royal estate.

What manner of woman was Mlle. Marie d'Arquien, whom the Poles came to know, and to hate, as "Marysienka"? M. Waliszewski shows at all points the most favourable disposition towards the French Queen of Poland. He is, perhaps, a little less than just to Sobieski. The hero of Vienha was, assuredly, something more than a rather gross and uxorious warrior, as M. Waliszewski depicts him at the height of his renown. Perhaps he is holding in reserve a study of the Polish hero, or is content to leave Sobieski to M. Korzon. The delicacy and sympathy of his portraiture of Marysienka are beyond question. A born intrigante as she was, and cleverly as she played her part in a Court that was a nest of chicane and intrigue, she had a passion rather than a genius for the art. Her personal fascination was, however, extraordinary. Never was man more hopelessly enslaved than Sobieski by this daughter of an obscure French officer. M. Waliszewski's lively conversational interludes and extracts from their cryptographic correspondence afford the most piquant revelation of the passionate admiration of Sobieski and the arts of the wily coquette Marysienka. The rhetorical imagery of current French romances abounds in these florid effusions. We know that Mr. Pepys waxed exceeding cross when his wife insisted on reading "Le Grand Cyrus" to him. No wonder, then, these romantic lovers bored each other after a long spell of this epistolary intercourse. It is, perhaps, the greatest tribute to Marysienka's charms that the impetuous Sobieski should have fallen in with her humour, and adopted this frigid and enigmatic style of writing. Between the lines, however, you may feel his heart beating; but of Marysienka it must be admitted that it is not she, but her career, that deserves to be called romantic. She must be accounted no common adventuress, even among the greatest adventurers of history. In the age of Louis Quatorze, when Poland was not a negligible quantity in the world of statecraft, she scored off France and Austria in their efforts for ascendancy in Poland. Especially pertinacious, if not invariably successful, was she in playing her cards with France for the advancement of her family. It is an amiable trait in her character that she never lost a chance of assisting her needy and rather disreputable father. She lived to see the soi-disant Captain d'Arquien ennobled, in some sort, to die a Cardinal at the age of ninety-seven—a destiny almost as strange as her own. "Poor Marysienka!" We can but echo M. Waliszewski's sigh. She lived too long for her ambition, outliving Sobieski and his glory. Her sons brought her discredit. She was cast out of Poland. She fought on to the end with splendid courage against disappointment and misfortune. Forbidden a sight of Paris, her natural paradise, she was appointed an asylum at Blois, where she died in 1716. Among "sad stories of the death of kings," not the least sad is the end of Marysienka.

THE STUDY OF SOCIOLOGY.

"The Elements of Sociology." A Text-Book for Colleges and Schools. By Professor Franklin Henry Giddings. London: Macmillan. 1899.

"Economics." By Edward Thomas Devine. London: Macmillan. 1899.

NO new university would be considered properly equipped without its Chair of Economics, either in the Faculty of Arts, or Philosophy. Its importance began with the increased importance of commerce, but was not conceived of in an exclusively commercial sense by its first expounders. They called it Political Economy, and regarded it as a study peculiarly appropriate for statesmen. The universities took it up from this point of view, and also as

an intellectual discipline, and a branch of philosophy. To practical business men it presented itself as an organon of money-making on improved principles, and this idea has been so curiously developed that it seems at last we are to have Chairs of Brewing for carrying on the teachings of economical science! But the study of sociology is in a very different position. There are no professors of sociology in the United Kingdom; as far as we can discover there are none in Germany, Austria, or Italy, though in all these countries there are professors without number of anthropology, ethnology, political or State science, and other special subjects which by the sociologist are looked on only as furnishing his data. There is a Chair of "Histoire de l'Économie Sociale" in the University of Paris, whose teaching province is "L'ensemble des conditions morales et matérielles des Sociétés," but as it is also called the Chair of "Économie Politique" it is not what is understood by a Chair of Sociology in America, where we must direct our attention if we would see the study of sociology pursued earnestly, with a due sense of its importance, and a real conviction that, as a special science with its own subject matter and definite principles, it should be taught in the universities. The principal universities there have professors of sociology; without mentioning others, the Washington Columbian University, Harvard, Yale, Michigan, Boston, and the Columbia University in the City of New York, where Professor Giddings, the author of the above-named "Elements of Sociology," is the teacher of that subject, and very distinguished amongst his colleagues. There is one country of Europe, however, where the American example has been followed at one of its universities. Last year the Rector of the New University of Brussels, Professor De Greef, succeeded after much opposition, which took the form of denying the teachability of sociology as a special subject, in establishing a Faculty of Sociology with himself as professor of psychological sociology, and other professors of archaeology and history, of art, philosophical biology, and of geography—the latter being the well-known Elisée Reclus.

Most of the books, too, of the class to which this belongs are by American authors; books dealing with the theory of the growth and organisation of human societies, with no more detailed treatment of the special facts of other sciences than the illustration of the theory requires. Mr. Herbert Spencer's well-known "Study of Sociology," though it is first in time, and in fact the progenitor of this class of literature, as its author is of the subject itself in its modern form, was not intended definitely for pedagogic purposes. Mr. Mackenzie's "Introduction to Social Philosophy" published in 1890 by the University of Glasgow, is of more limited scope, being directed especially to the connexion of sociology with the general doctrines of psychology and ethics. Mr. Lester F. Ward's "Outlines of Sociology"—lectures delivered at the Hartford School of Sociology—and Mr. Fairbank's "Introduction to Sociology," together with Mr. Giddings' former book "Principles of Sociology," are all American books published within the last two years. They indicate the importance attached to sociology in the educational system of America, and are all purposely adapted to systematic class teaching. If ever the universities and other educational institutions in England adopt the American view, that sociology can, and should, be taught as a branch of philosophy, and as a practical training for public life and citizenship, Professor Giddings' book will be found one of the best of introductions to the subject. Not in the sense of Mr. Spencer's Introduction which is very much concerned with considering the question, which by this time Americans, at least, have settled in the affirmative, whether there is such a science as sociology, and what are the peculiar difficulties attending the study of it, but as an actual treatment of the subject itself. It was at the instigation of an American that Mr. Spencer's book was written, and Mr. Giddings acts on the assumption that the ground is sufficiently cleared for an introduction to the corpus of the science in the shape of an exposition of its elementary principles with the definiteness, precision, and terminology, suitable in a text-book to be used under the guidance of a teacher. There is no unnecessary discussion of the dis-

inction between sociology and other sciences concerned with social phenomena, such as ethnology, anthropology and politics; a kind of discussion which is apt to assume the appearance of an apology for the separate treatment of sociology. The relation of sociology to economics has indeed been the cause of a good deal of confusion; though J. S. Mill had a clear idea of it sixty-three years ago, and defined the scope and objects of sociology in such a manner that his statement is a synopsis which writers upon sociology can only expand according to the state of knowledge of their time, and their several abilities. He did not use the word "sociology." He was too much of a scholar, and had the good fortune to live before a multitude of inferior scholars had stereotyped the etymological hybrid. He was writing three years before Comte had invented it; and when Comte did invent it he used it in a different sense. As he used it in the "Positive Philosophy" in 1839 it meant a science which summed up the results of all science, and was to be applied to the regulation of human society in a particular way. It meant a method of regulation, just as socialism means another regulative method applied to the government of society. Mill in using the phrase "Science of Social Economy" meant very much what Mr. Spencer meant when he used the word "sociology" for the first time in its present sense, and apologised for the hybrid on account of its supposed convenience. It was to explain man's social nature; how his interests, feelings, and conduct are influenced in society; how union in society becomes closer, and more complex; how co-operation amongst the different elements of society increases, and in consequence civilisation and progress result; how the purposes of society increase in scope and develop a greater variety of means for accomplishing them; how different kinds of society arise under various environments; and how they each affect the conduct and character of individuals. We may remark that it is with this psychology of society that Mr. Giddings' book is mainly occupied. Mill's definition of the scope of economics is too well known to need setting out. Sociology would evidently be a later birth of time than economics. This is rather curiously illustrated by the fact that Adam Smith intended to complete the "Wealth of Nations" by a general study of society. In his great book, indeed, he treated economics more scientifically, because more in relation with sociology, than subsequent economical writers; and political economy fell into disrepute, largely through the neglect of his method. With the growth of a scientific study of society, aided by the modern development of the contributory sciences, economics will be restored to its proper place and become more fruitful. It is significant that the rehabilitation of economics which is taking place is largely due to the school of American economists, who are sociologists first, and who treat their science as sociologists. The little manual of Mr. Devine is an instance in point; and we have for that reason placed it along with Mr. Giddings' book. It is quite elementary, but not with the "beggarly elements" which have often passed as economics. The chapter on "The Consumption of Goods," though not easy reading, of itself places the book apart from the old text-books, and will come almost as a revelation to readers who only know the "older economists."

THE TEMPLE OF MUT.

"The Temple of Mut in Asher: an Account of the Excavation of the Temple." By Margaret Benson and Janet Gourlay. London: Murray. 1899.

VISITORS to Upper Egypt land at Luxor and hasten to Karnak. Two miles of a very dusty road have to be traversed. The sun is perhaps hot, or the wind high, and even the most ardent sight-seer looks neither to the right hand nor to the left, till he has reached the welcome shelter of the western pylon and entered the great court. It often happens therefore that ruins which lie well to the eastward of the road, soon after we are clear of the Temple of Luxor, are completely overlooked. The guide-books agree that the Temple of Maut, Muth or Mut are so ruinous as scarcely to be worth a visit. If, however, when we reach the great obelisk

which is still standing we turn to the south we find ourselves in a kind of transept leading to a series of gateways. A good deal of imagination is needed to restore this corner and to people it with the stone figures of the Kings of the Eighteenth Dynasty of which only two remain. Then the four pylons have to be identified and, still proceeding southward, we reach, some three hundred yards from where we started, an avenue bordered by a double row of "stone animals, sometimes with heads of men, sometimes with rams' heads," as our authors cautiously describe them. "These," they explain, "we have been accustomed to call sphinxes." The avenue conducts the visitor, when, guided by the "sphinxes," he has traversed another three hundred yards, to a semicircular lake of brackish water, in front of which certain heaps of stones and certain sandy mounds represent the temple of the goddess who, with Amen-Ra and Khonsu, formed the so-called "triad of Thebes." Miss Benson and Miss Gourlay are careful to point out that the doctrine of triads was very late in its origin and artificial in its character. The ram "is the sacred animal of Amen, and hence the stone creatures, with lions' bodies and rams' heads, which form the avenues of Karnak, are more particularly symbolic of the great God of Thebes." There is one of these colossal rams' heads in the British Museum. Within the Temple of Mut itself there are many statues of goddesses wearing the heads of lionesses, and these too are represented in the Museum. Mut apparently is thus sometimes identified with Sekhet, or with the cat-headed goddess of Bubastis. The name of Mut is simply "Mother," and lionesses, cats, and vultures were all considered as typical mothers. They were to be worshipped together with Hathor, the heifer-headed goddess of Denderah, whom Dr. Wiedemann calls "the sum and substance of female godhead." A little further south, at Al Kab, was the shrine of another emblem of motherhood, the sacred sow of Eleithyia, and here too Hathor was worshipped. In short, Mut seems to have united the attributes of all the female divinities just named and several others as well; and, as Hathor alone, appeared under fifty-one different forms. It is evident that the Temple at Karnak, which seems to have been the principal place in all Egypt for mother-worship under the eighteenth Dynasty, was well worthy, however ruinous, of careful investigation. This attention, after some obstructive opposition on the part of the authorities, Miss Benson and Miss Gourlay were allowed, in 1895, to pay to the ancient shrine, and the handsome volume before us contains an exceedingly interesting record of what they did and what they found in three years of excavation. The Temple of Mut in Asher can no longer remain a blank in the Nile traveller's guide-books.

The authors need not have apologised for being amateurs. All our great Egyptian explorers have commenced as amateurs, from the days of Belzoni to those of Dr. Flinders Petrie. That which calls for notice, though not for apology, is that in the present instance the excavators are women. Miss Amelia Edwards carried out some explorations, and other ladies are understood to have laboured in various parts of the Nile Valley, chiefly under the direction of competent scholars of the other sex. But Miss Benson and her assistant omit all reference to such matters, and premising that they have worked and that their work has led them to certain discoveries, they come to the conclusion that they ought to make known a register of the results at which they have arrived for the information of those "who, without technical knowledge, feel the fascination and interest of Egypt." In pursuance of this most laudable aim they have compiled a volume full of learning conveyed in a pleasant manner and full of the kind of experience which can only be acquired by hard local work.

"On January 1st, 1895, we began the excavation," they tell us. They worked at first by a plan left by Mariette, but were obliged eventually to relinquish its guidance. Mariette had ascribed the whole temple except its outer court to Amenhetep III. and later kings; but they found remains which bore the names of the great men of the Twelfth Dynasty, and were led on good grounds to conclude that the temple of the mother goddess was originally constructed by the same kings whose buildings are the earliest yet dis-

covered at Karnak. A small piece of black basalt bore the name of a priest which read "Amen-em-hat-anh," the life of Amenemhat. That a king of the Twelfth Dynasty was referred to was proved by his name being enclosed in a royal oval. "It is very unusual," we are told, "to find a private name compounded with a royal cartouche, and such instances of it as are known nearly all belong to the Twelfth Dynasty." A few minutes' consultation of Lieblein's Dictionary of hieroglyphic names would have shown Miss Benson and Miss Gourlay that they are mistaken in this assertion. The form very frequently occurs under the pyramid-builders. Khufu-ankh, Khafra-ankh, Seneferu-ankh and others are to be seen among early tombs and the fashion was taken up again under the Twenty-sixth Dynasty, when we meet with Psamtik-ankh and other examples of the kind. Translations of the inscriptions unearthed are furnished by Mr. Percy Newberry. Among them we may call special attention to the mention of Bak-en-Khonsu, the slave of Khonsu, the god of the moon and partner with Amen-Ra and Mut in the Theban triad. This dignitary, whose name is well known from his tomb at Drah Abu 'l Neggah and his sarcophagus in the Liverpool Museum, prayed the gods that he might reach the age of 110 years. It is quite possible, observes Mr. Newberry, that this prayer was granted, for "he was still flourishing, at one hundred at the very least, when the Benson statue was executed."

THE CUBAN WAR.

"The War in Cuba." By John Black Atkins. London : Smith, Elder and Co. 1899.
 "The Cuban and Porto Rican Campaigns." By Richard Harding Davis. London : Heinemann. 1899.
 "Cuba and Porto Rico, with other Islands of the West Indies." By Robert T. Hill. London : T. Fisher Unwin. 1899.

THERE was only one thing necessary to complete the history of criminal blundering in the American campaign in Cuba. That was to deny, or make excuses for, the way it was conducted. Thousands of sick and wounded soldiers, since returned to their homes, have spread throughout the whole United States the true account of how they were treated, or ill-treated, owing to the complete breakdown of the Commissariat, Army Medical, and Transport Departments. No one could dispute the story on which they all agreed. Their united evidence to ordinary people was overwhelming. It required the supreme effrontery of the committee of investigation to combat these statements, and, with a front of brass, to attempt to persuade the American people that the only man really worthy of censure was the soldier who had sufficient courage to find fault with the quality of the food supplied to his men. The Commission was packed to whitewash the Government. That miserable political wire-pulling which was seen at the commencement and throughout the progress of the war is now visible at its close. If the American people stand it, they should regard the White House as the sepulchre for the nation's honour.

Two of the books before us, one written by an American, the other by an Englishman, dealing with the campaign in Cuba, agree in giving the lie to the finding of the Commission. Mr. Atkins' book gives an admirably clear, bright, and entertaining account of the operations of the invading army. This is how Mr. Atkins describes the condition of the Army Medical Corps. Speaking of the night after the fighting of 3 July, he says :—

"There were not nearly enough tents, cots, medicines, doctors, nurses, or carriers. Everything was insufficient. I have never seen anything more pitiable than the spectacle of wounded men lying all night without a tent-covering over them on the muddy ground and in the soaking dew. Night on a hospital ground was a time of horror; there was moaning everywhere, and one night I remember two men calling all night for some one to kill them." Of another night, over a week later, he says :—

"A thunder-storm came—such thunder as I have never heard and never thought to hear—so near,

tremendous and splitting. With it came a tropical storm of rain, falling in a wall so that you could not see through it. Soon the ground where I lay was under water. A volunteer regiment had arrived late at night, and had no time to encamp themselves; the morning revealed them lying in a lake. The horses were all frightened with the storm, and came round the tents whinnying. And in the middle of it all, two men who had been crying out deliriously in the 'hospital' began to wander about in the field gibbering. This was a hospital in which there were cases of yellow fever."

Mr. Richard Harding Davis is almost equally severe on the management of the campaign, and on Shafter's generalship. His book is a reprint of some magazine articles, and is amply illustrated from photographs in many of which the author is a picturesque figure. The comparison of the report of the Commission of Inquiry with the account of the campaign given in these books should afford food for deep reflection to every thoughtful American.

NOVELS, MACHINE-MADE AND OTHERS.

"Aeroestes the Gaul." By Edgar Maurice Smith. London : Fisher Unwin. 1899.
 "Omar the Tentmaker." By Nathan Haskell Dole. London : Duckworth. 1899.
 "Many Ways of Love." By Fred Whishaw. London : Dent. 1899.
 "The Countess Tekla." By Robert Barr. London : Methuen. 1899.

OF historical romances there are, broadly speaking, two classes. In the first, conception of the story and perception of the exact period in which it must, for its proper development, be set, should be simultaneous. In the second, these two processes are wholly and obviously separate in point of time; for in some cases the would-be romancer invents a story to fit some historic period in which he is interested, in others he laboriously endeavours to evoke an atmosphere which shall fitly envelop a preconceived story. The romancer who takes actual figures of history and surrounds them with puppets of his own, may obviously belong to either class; but there can be no success for him unless, by virtue of his title to inclusion in the first, the creatures born of his imagination spring forth fully clothed and in their right period. There can be little doubt as to the classification of the first three out of the four novels mentioned above. Dealing with characters from authentic history, they are grievously exemplary of mechanical methods. "Go to," each author has said in his heart; "I also will show how historical romances may be concocted. I will tell a tale of Hannibal—I of Omar—I of Catherine the Great." And straightway, with deplorable industry, each has produced an ingenious specimen of the machine-made romance which bears much the same relation to the genuine article that the mermaid of some old-fashioned country show bears to the splendid imaginings of Burne-Jones or Matthew Arnold. We may hold, with Mr. Meredith, that the spirit of comedy does not at all care whether you believe him or not; but if the spirit of romance cannot persuade you to credulity, at least for the moment, then his labours are indeed in vain. And we fear that Messrs. Smith, Dole, and Whishaw have wasted all their efforts after the real romantic flavour, the true historic colour; for not one of their puppets has vitality enough to stir a little finger with any semblance of life.

Mr. Smith, for instance, goes about to give us a fragment of the second Punic war. He introduces us to Hannibal and his generals; he tells us of a gory combat for freedom between Aeroestes, a captive Gaul, and an Allobrogian giant; he describes how the former, having won his fight, penetrated the city of Taurasia as a spy, and fell in love with Ducaria, daughter of the chief of the Taurini; and at the end of the pedantic parade, Hannibal seems a less real figure than he did in one's schoolboy days, and there has been no single instant of illusion. The qualities displayed by Mr. Nathan Haskell Dole are, unhappily, not so negative and innocuous. Neither epithet can be applied to a book which shows the astronomer-poet as

a tedious bore, whose conversation is only tolerable when he is allowed to quote himself in Fitzgerald's translation. At times he delivers himself in the versions of John Payne and Mr. Heron-Alen, so relapsing into such dulness as makes one marvel at the forbearance of his friends. We shall not deny to Mr. Dole a certain ingenuity in his attempt to develop the story of Omar's relations with Malik Shah, Nizám ul Mulk, and Hasan Ben Sabbáh, but he has added nothing of picturesqueness or interest to the information already familiar to students of Fitzgerald; and as for Omar's love-affair with Agapé, the Greek hostage, and his marriage with Shirín Khanúm, the widow of his murdered friend, we are left profoundly uninterested by Mr. Dole's presentation of either matter. And the whole book, by its tragic dulness, is an offence to all lovers of the poet.

Mr. Whishaw is in somewhat better case, for he brings to bear on his story of the Court of Catherine the Great a considerable experience in the manufacture of novels. The mechanism of his narrative is therefore much more happily managed, and there are one or two scenes which go with capital spirit. But in no instance does the Catherine of Mr. Whishaw's pages attain the proportions of splendid wickedness which are hers even in the dullest history. She stamps and rages, she loves and slays, but nobody marks her; and such interest as resides in the story is wholly independent of history.

To Mr. Barr we perhaps do some injustice by suggesting that his excellent novel belongs properly to the baser sort. We have so included it partly because no classification of literary phenomena can be entirely accurate, but chiefly because we find it hard to believe that Mr. Barr's primary motive in writing "*The Countess Tekla*" was not a desire to show that he, an essentially modern novelist, could wear the cloak and rapier as gallantly as the best. But however artificial his first impulse may have been, the final result is extremely pleasant. It is a brave and moving narrative, this of the Countess and her emperor-lover, and in their adventurous companionship one is reminded — more happily than in the other novels we have just been considering — that the method of romance is not to be acquired by study and fasting, and that its function is to thrill one's pulses, to stir one's blood, and to renew, though but for a moment, one's share in the eternal youth of the world.

"*Idols.*" By William J. Locke. London: John Lane. 1898.

"*Idols*" is in some ways a remarkable novel. Mr. Locke has shown before this that he is a thorough workman, given to the careful finishing-off of all loose ends, fond, perhaps, of the elaborate plots dear to our forefathers, but modern of the moderns in the way he carries them out. It will probably be when "*Idols*" has been read through to the end, and not before, that most of us will pause to consider its flaws. While we are reading it, we hardly realise that Hugh has a rather perilous flavour of the lady novelist's favourite, with his "supercilious up-sweep of a heavy auburn moustache;" that he would hardly have become the "lifelong, intimate friend" of a man like Gerard: that Irene's desperate self-accusation in open court would have been all but physically impossible to a woman of her delicacy: that the murder of old Israel Hart seems unnecessarily unconvincing — it is straining coincidence to make the thieves possess themselves of the one thing that could compromise the hero, that one thing being entirely useless to themselves; and finally that the sensuous, cleverly drawn little Minna Hart was hardly likely to be so sensitive to insult of a flattering kind as the author makes her, on page 322. However, as we have said, these are perhaps ungrateful criticisms. The book is distinctly above the average run of novels.

"*The Procession of Life.*" By Horace Annesley Vachell. London: Sands and Co. 1899.

This story is delightfully disappointing. The scene is laid in California and we expected to find the "*Procession of Life*" somewhat brassy and flamboyant, as befits the youthfulness of that State, but only in a minor degree does the noisy life of the community enter into

the tale — the life that includes feverish land booms and monstrous political jobbery — for it subordinates incident in order to exalt character. In effect, the novel offers itself as a close study of married life; coloured by local conditions, but in all essentials as true to London as it is to Clunville. It is a very human tale, the four married people who are presented as the central characters having the faults and limitations which knit them closely to humanity in general. They are tried in the fire, these four men and women, the fire of everyday worries, labours, jealousies, disappointments. In the end they are purified; and if Fate is kinder to them than it is to most in this harsh world the reader will not complain. Pathos and humour enter into the quiet narrative. If the "*Procession of Life*" is not a great novel, conceived in the grand manner, we can at least commend it heartily as an excellent story excellently told.

"*A Haunted Town*," by Ethel Heddle (Wells Gardner, Darton), is a pretty little book and a great improvement upon "*Three Girls in a Flat*," by the same author. The heroine is lovable and "breezy," with a sense of humour, and the gentle old aunt who receives her as a visitor at St. Andrews is a charmingly drawn character, with her pathetic literary work and her adoration of Mary Queen of Scots. "*Aunt Bethune*" is excellent, too, with her detestation of her exemplary son-in-law. "I aye rejoice to think o' the mony mansions i' heaven," she says. "Andrew Dalgairns 'll gang there, I suppose . . . he couldna be ony whaur else. But . . . at least he needna bide near me!"

"*Anna*," by Edward Hovendon (Digby, Long), has a good deal of would-be epigrammatic writing and some tolerably clever dialogue. We conscientiously read every word of it. There is no particular fault to be found with it, but it needs an appendix to tell us what it really is all about. When Anna embraces Arthur with "long, deep kisses . . . which, like sobs, seemed to have come from the bottom of her heart," we feel vaguely congratulatory, with a tinge of wonder as to why she never did it before; that is the clearest impression made on us by the whole book. It would make a terrible examination paper.

Of some books as of some men it is not recorded why they are born at all. And of such is "*A Triple Entanglement*," by Mrs. Burton Harrison (Fisher Unwin). Hero, heroine and villain are all spread upon the canvas, but their doings afford the reader no sort of interest. Towards the end, indeed, he may be roused into languid protest that governesses in this present year of grace neither suffer the privations of the lost nor stray so easily into Tom Tiddler's ground.

THEOLOGICAL MANUALS.

"*Our Prayer-Book. Conformity and Conscience.*" By Canon W. Page Roberts, M.A. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1899.

At intervals the question of the ethics of conformity reaches an acute stage, and there are many signs that such a stage is now being reached in the National Church. This little book represents the views of those, always a considerable number in any established Church, who minimise the significance of subscription. Canon Page Roberts is a Latitudinarian, very kindly towards all sorts and conditions of religious men, averse to positive convictions especially as expressed in exclusive attitudes on open questions, hostile to dogmatic and ecclesiastical claims, given to exalt the moral aspects of religion as alone of real importance. He writes pleasantly in a style at once genial and pointed: his pages bristle with well-turned antitheses which, if rarely charged with profound or original thought, are certainly in themselves bright and attractive vehicles of useful truths which are too easily forgotten. That "ministers are but the delegates of the people" is a proposition which cannot be reconciled with the Ordinal. Frequent services are somewhat contemptuously dismissed as not worth the trouble of conducting them. The validity of priestly absolution is denied; the formulas of the Prayer-book being reduced to mere declarations of the Divine Mercy which any Christian might read. The Athanasian Creed is severely handled, and a further revision of the Litany is demanded. On the other hand, the author laments the contempt of the Holy Eucharist which marks "Evangelical and Liberal Protestants, whether in the Church or out of it." The Protestant attitude towards the Sacrament is described as "a combination of superstition and of indifference."

ence." Moreover, Canon Page Roberts refers in terms of well-merited severity to the irreverence of demeanour which is but too often characteristic of fashionable congregations. "The sloven in posture will be the sluggard in prayer." But can the fair result of reverence be reasonably expected where deep convictions are absent? The premisses of the Latitudinarian seem to necessitate the conclusions of Erastianism and laxity.

"The Christian Creed and the Creeds of Christendom." By S. G. Green. London: Macmillan. 1898.

Dr. Green is a member of the Baptist denomination, and he does not conceal the fact; but he nowhere unduly presses his sectarian proclivities; he always writes with courtesy and discrimination; and the references at the foot of the pages indicate that his opinions are based on an adequate foundation of knowledge. We have, however, noticed some statements which need correction or explanation. Thus, on p. 50, we read that "the epithet 'Catholic' as applied to the Church, comes from Aquileia, its earliest known occurrence, as an epithet of the Church, being in the writings of Nicetas, about the middle of the fifth century." It is surely well known that the expression *ἡ καθολικὴ ἐκκλησία* is found in the Ignatian Letters (A.D. 110), in a general sense, and in the technical sense, which is familiar to later times, in the Muratorian Fragment (A.D. 180). We note with satisfaction that Dr. Green sweeps away with decision the venerable sophism of Gibbon about the diphthong in the Nicene Creed, and quotes the remarkable acknowledgment of Carlyle that "he perceived Christianity itself to have been at stake. If the Arians had won, it would have dwindled away into a legend." The concluding chapter on "The Catholic Church of the Future" is written in an excellent spirit, and evidently expresses the hopes and ideals of a devout and generous mind; but it is not very coherent in itself, and it only shifts the problem it aspires to solve. Creeds and confessions are vain securities of religious truth; they are going: let them go. Yes; and in their place? Our own intuitions and the Bible—the latter, moreover, as men read it in the light of criticism. This will not satisfy the want which the authority of the historic Catholic Church claims to meet. Dr. Green does an injustice to the late Bishop Lightfoot when he credits him with a congregational theory of the Apostolic Church (p. 268). We wonder how much longer that misconception of the famous essay on the Christian Ministry, against which the learned author was wont to earnestly protest, will appear in the pages of writers so evidently fair-minded and well-informed as Dr. Green.

"Church Troubles and Common Sense." By W. H. Carnegie, M.A. London: John Murray. 1899.

The literature of the Ritual Crisis accumulates at an alarming pace. This, however, is a meritorious little volume, which, crisis apart, was worth publishing. Mr. Carnegie makes the generous blunder common to his school of thought, of gravely underrating the divergences of belief within the National Church. Little is really gained by ignoring the fact, "writ large" on the history of Christendom, that there are two radically opposed conceptions of Christianity, and that the chronic unrest of the Church of England arises from the fact that, beyond all other Churches, she has succeeded in keeping the advocates of both within her pale. The practical effects of the union are excellent; but the union itself is too artificial to be secure, and at any moment may give down before an outbreak of fanaticism on one side or the other. Moreover, Mr. Carnegie does not sufficiently allow for the deep resentment which sober-minded Englishmen feel against the contempt for law which marks the extreme wing of the High Church Party. The avowed Ritualist policy of breaking the law in order to discredit and change it does not commend itself as becoming in clergymen, or consistent with good citizenship. No doubt the serious decline of clerical incomes has lowered the quality of the clergy very seriously. Mr. Carnegie speaks plainly and wisely on this matter. The laity have the solution of the present problem largely in their own hands. Let them re-endow the Church, and send their clever boys into Holy Orders, and a change for the better will certainly follow; but poverty means degeneration in quality, intellectual and moral.

Professor Hastie, the Professor of Divinity, has published three introductory lectures in a small volume, "Theology as Science" (Glasgow: James MacLehose and Sons. 1899.). Many persons, both in Scotland and in England, will read with sympathy and agreement the ardent and generous eulogy on the late Principal Caird, with which the first lecture concludes. "He has been universally recognised as the greatest preacher our country has produced during this century, and as, indeed, pre-eminently the one Chrysostom of the Church in Scotland." Surely this must be excessive. The concluding lecture on the "present position and prospects of the theology of the Reformed Church" is a bold plea for Calvinism, as the only logically complete and permanently satisfactory scheme of theology. "It led the way in Biblical criticism and exegesis; it introduced distinct ethical reflection into theology; and it systematised the theological thinking of Protestant Europe on the lines of modern science." But the Calvinism of Professor Hastie would be neither recognised nor acknowledged by the

Authors of the Confessions to which he pays formal homage as the statutory limitations of his official liberty. He is conscious that there are many forces adverse to the Reformed Theology now operative even within the historic sphere of its influence, and he makes an eloquent appeal to the Glasgow students to rally to "the Scottish branch of the Reformed Church" as the Church marked out by her unique position to lead the enterprise of resuscitating the Reformed Faith. We wish well to all attempts to reconcile historic creeds to modern thought, but we cannot think that the interest of Revealed Religion is best served by identifying it with the ruthless logic and narrow sympathies of Calvinism.

The season of Lent is regularly heralded by the appearance of numerous religious and devotional books and pamphlets. Most of this literature is ephemeral, and much of it is mischievous; but certainly it matches a genuine and widely distributed need, and there is cause for satisfaction when divines of standing and reputation set themselves to provide for the popular religious demand of the season. The Master of Trinity has issued a little volume of addresses at Holy Communion under the title "Lift up your Hearts" (Cambridge Macmillan and Bowes. 1898); and Professor Tyrrell Green, M.A., of Lampeter, has published a series of Lenten addresses, entitled "The Sinner's Restoration" (London: Wells Gardner). Both publications seem above the average of devotional literature, and will no doubt find many and grateful readers.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"Rome." By Dr. Reinhold Schoener. Condensed and Edited by Mrs. Arthur Bell. London: S. Low. 1898.

In a "Translator's Note" Mrs. Bell says that she has endeavoured, in offering the present edition of Dr. and Mrs. Schoener's excellent work on Rome to English readers, to combine German erudition with the brightness characteristic of certain English works which she mentions. It may at once be admitted that Mrs. Bell has attained the end for which she has striven. Since it is equally true that "the spirited illustrations speak for themselves" we may accept the assurance that "they contrast in a remarkable way with anything which has before been achieved within the compass of a single volume" without any protest beyond a reminder to Mrs. Bell that there exists a book called "Un An à Rome" written and illustrated long before any of the present generation were born, which has some claims to consideration both for its letter-press and for its illustrations. That book however dealt entirely with the picturesque side of Roman life as the author knew it at a time when the carnival and the horse-races in the Corso were yet in full swing. It is not Mrs. Bell's fault that her book must have been in the press some time before the results of the most recent and seemingly very important excavations were known. "To one," says Mrs. Bell, "who has lived on the banks of the Tiber for the last twenty years, the close connexion between the past and the present is all too evident, for there is not a quarter of the ancient city which has not been more or less modified by modern requirements, and in many cases the transformation has been so complete that features familiar enough some thirty years ago are now scarcely recognisable. The change indeed extends in an even more marked degree to the people, whose manners and customs have been greatly modified by the influx of Italians from the other cities of the Peninsula. It is not generally understood why the Rome which has put up statues to Giordano Bruno, Minghetti, Piero Cossa, and Garibaldi, should be so very different not only from the Rome of Goethe, but from that of Pius VII., and it has been essential to dwell upon the real facts of the case, the actual results of the rivalry between Vatican and Quirinal, and of the vast increase in the population, in order to bring forcibly home to the student of the modern Capitol the problems which will meet him at every turn." That the enthusiastic lover of Rome, however, "need fear no disillusioning when once he has entered the sacred precincts of St. Peter's" is amply proved by Dr. Schoener's work. Here and there are points which, it is true, cannot be accepted without challenge. For instance we are told that "the *Guardia Nobile*, only 50 men strong, belong entirely to the clerical aristocracy of Rome." Now one would like to know if this statement is absolutely correct, because one seems to have heard, rightly or wrongly, of at least one distinguished Scotsman, a layman, who holds, or not long ago held, an honourable place among that honourable guard. Again, concerning the Colosseum, there is a passage about the travertine blocks, some of which have large round holes in them, forming the floor of the Hypogaea. "It has been conjectured that these were the sockets into which upright posts were fixed, and in some of them the remains have been found of metal lining." As to this Mr. Burn's theory is, by implication, accepted, that "they were used for the erection of temporary wooden posts" to which ropes were attached, for the purpose of keeping the ranks of processions marshalled beneath the stage before they entered the arena and returning to the Hypogaea after they

left the arena. To us the other explanation has, we confess, always seemed the more plausible, that they were devised for the reception either of capstans or of bats connected with the machinery employed in the arena above—in fact that they were just such a part of stage machinery in "the cellars" (a phrase corresponding closely enough to Hypogaea) as may be found in many modern theatres. For many of the effects produced in the arena large and elaborate machinery must have been needed. Certain "heavy" scenic effects cannot be produced without very strong support and machinery beneath the stage, and it seems a simple explanation that these travertine blocks are in truth the remains of such machinery. This, however, is more a matter of opinion than of adverse criticism.

"The Last Link: Our Present Knowledge of the Descent of Man." By Ernst Haeckel. With Notes and Biographical Sketches by Hans Gadow, F.R.S. London: Black. 1898.

We cannot say that the famous Jena Professor has added to his reputation by this little volume, which, in substance, is the address he delivered before the International Congress of Zoologists at Cambridge last summer. The fact is that zoology has outgrown its Haeckel stage. When the wonderful generalisations of Darwin once for all convinced zoologists of the actual truth of descent by modification, there arose a wild enthusiasm for the formation of pedigrees. Anatomists traced the linear descent of any particular animal, including man, with the most enthusiastic confidence, setting forth the whole ancestral line with the detail and certainty of a genealogist engaged in finding Norman ancestors for an ennobled draper. Among the genealogists Haeckel was the most enthusiastic and the most confident. Even fifteen years ago the zoological world was still involved in his family trees, his missing links, and his hypothetical creatures to fill their places. The vast progress in knowledge during the last two decades has made us more confident than ever of the general truth of descent, but extraordinarily more chary of placing individual forms or fossils in individual lines of ancestry. We see the general line of march of the battalions and regiments of living things down the geological ages, but we hesitate to pick out the successive footsteps of individual forms from the tangle of recorded tracks. Haeckel, however, appears to have retained his original point of view, and in this volume he treats the recent discovery of Pithecanthropus with the simple confidence of past years. For him it is the last link, the hitherto missing link, in the pedigree of man. Probably he is now almost alone among zoologists of distinction in his method of handling the problems of zoology.

"Tales of the Enchanted Islands of the Atlantic." By Thomas Wentworth Higginson. London: Macmillan. 1898.

There is much that is delightful in this resetting of a score of legends from Celtic and Arthurian sources. Poetic feeling and a breezy freshness animate anew the beautiful story of "The Swan-Children of Lir"; humour and pathos are in the telling of the love passion that cost Marguerite Roberval her dread sojourn in the Island of Demons; and the legend of Usheen and Niam is one of the best though one of the briefest in the volume. We note that, in treating of Merlin, Mr. Higginson inclines to the reverse of Tennyson's presentation of the Lady of the Lake. Vivian, he prefers to think, really loved "the enchanter" even in his old age. These legends, Mr. Higginson writes in his dedication, "form a part of the common heritage of the English-speaking race" and in his interesting preface he regards them as "a part of the mythical period of American history." But the legends have surely a wider connexion with the world: they are a part of "the beyond" of every sea-girt or seafaring people; and, if we narrow the view, we may in truth regard many of them as far more the property of Celt and Cymro than as associated with the dawn of American history. For the most part Mr. Higginson preserves the atmosphere of romance: but occasionally a shaft of modern speech dispels illusion—as, for example, when Manawydan and Kigva, in the story of "The Castle of the Active Door," are said to have wandered away to other lands and "sought to earn their living." The authorities for each of the tales are carefully collated in an appendix and the illustrations by Mr. Albert Herter lend additional attractiveness to the text.

"Poison Romance and Poison Mysteries." By C. J. S. Thompson. London: The Scientific Press. 1899.

A feature of this book is its recapitulation of the leading facts of some famous (or infamous) poison mysteries, such as the Madeline Smith, Maybrick, Lamson, Bravo and other cases. In addition, however, there is a great deal of curious information concerning the history of poisons and poisoning. A chapter on "Poison Habits" includes a statement to the effect that certain well-known women of fashion have taken to smoking green tea in the form of cigarettes. The section entitled "Poisons in Fiction" is a little disappointing. Mr. Thompson does not forget to pay a tribute to the untiring zeal of those who have devoted their energies, as each new poison has been discovered, to the discovery of its antidote and proper use, and to the consequent thwarting of crime.

"The Philippine Islands and their People. A record of personal observation and experience, with a short summary of the more important facts in the history of the Archipelago." By Dean C. Worcester, Assistant Professor of Zoology, University of Michigan. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1898.

Professor Worcester has travelled among the Philippine Islands in order to investigate their zoology. Owing to the interest in the Archipelago suddenly roused by the Spanish-American war, he has prepared a detailed account of his travels, which is full of useful information. He describes the islands as of great natural wealth. His account of Spanish rule shows why, in spite of great opportunities, it came to such an inglorious end. "In your country," a Spaniard once remarked to him, "time is gold; here it is boiled rice;" and the early part of the book records a long struggle with the dilatoriness of the officials. Corruption is described as universal. "The whole financial administration is rotten from skin to core." General Weyler, of Cuban notoriety, is accused of the greatest "success," for he is said to have secured "a sum running into the millions." The system of justice is no better, and the author had personal evidence of the use of torture to extract confessions from accused prisoners. But according to Professor Worcester the religious orders, with their opposition to the spread of education, their tyranny and their unscrupulous means of getting rid of their enemies, have been the greatest curse to the islands.

"The University Education Question in Ireland." By W. Whitchurch. Belfast: Strain and Sons.

This is a thoughtful little pamphlet in which Professor Whitchurch has discussed the future of University education in Ireland from the point of view specially of medical education. Like all men of experience who have studied the matter he condemns the present absurd and impossible situation and declares, although with no great enthusiasm, in favour of a solution on the lines proposed by Mr. Balfour. Those who wish to understand what we may call the Owens College point of view should not fail to consult Professor Whitchurch's book, which indeed is worth having for its appendix alone. In it will be found the text of Mr. Balfour's letter and of the resolution adopted by the corporate body of Queen's College, Belfast, together with the two lucid and convincing letters in which President Hamilton of Belfast supports Mr. Balfour's arguments.

"Round the World on a Wheel." By John Foster Fraser. London: Methuen. 1899.

A man who rushes round the world on a bicycle with the object of breaking the record cannot be expected to return with valuable impressions of what he has seen under such conditions. Mr. Fraser has, nevertheless, a great deal to say that is interesting; but he unfortunately says it, with a persistence which endures through 500 pages, in a manner tiresomely copied from Jerome K. Jerome. The natural result is a book which might have been more appropriately entitled "The Hasty Observations of a Cockney Record-breaker."

"The Secret of Achievement." By Orison Swett Marden. London: Thomas Nelson and Sons. 1899.

Mr. Marden has compiled a bulky primer for the benefit of youth. He writes somewhat on the lines Dr. Smiles has made so popular. He tries, after the fine Roman manner—some way after—to instil precepts by means of examples drawn from ancient and modern history and fable. Of its class the book may prove useful, especially to those whose lot in life it is to educate the young. In some youthful hands, as other books of its kind have done before it, it may tend to the propagation and case-hardening of the genus prig.

For This Week's Books see page 348.

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CHELTENHAM COLLEGE.—The ANNUAL EXAMINATION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS will be held on June 6, 7, and 8. Ten Open Scholarships, at least, of value ranging between £80 and £200 per annum, will be awarded: also one Scholarship of £35 per annum, tenable for three years, for sons of old Cheltenians only. Also Scholarships confined to candidates for Army and Navy Examinations. Chief subjects, Classics and Mathematics. Candidates must be under 15.—Apply to the Bursar, the College, Cheltenham.

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CROWN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND No. 23.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of FIFTY PER CENT. has been declared by the Board for the period ending 31 March, 1899, payable to Shareholders registered in the Books of the Company at the close of business at 4 p.m. on TUESDAY, 29 March, 1899, and to HOLDERS OF COUPON No. 11 attached to SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER.

The Transfer Registers will be Closed from 29 March to 4 April, both days inclusive. The WARRANTS will be despatched to registered European Shareholders from the London Office, and will probably be in the hands of Shareholders about 2 May.

ANDREW MOIR,
London Secretary.

London Office, 129 Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.
15 March, 1899.

THE SURGICAL AID SOCIETY.

Chief Office—Salisbury Square, London, E.C.

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23,621 Appliances given in 1898.

OVER 300 PATIENTS ARE RELIEVED EVERY WEEK.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS are earnestly solicited, and will be thankfully received by the Bankers, Messrs. BARCLAY & CO., LIMITED, Lombard Street, or by the SECRETARY, at the Office of the Society.

RICHARD C. TRESIDDER, Secretary.

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MUTTON.—Loins and Saddles, 6d.; Shoulders, 6d.
MUTTON.—Legs, 8d.; Necks, 5d.
LAMB.—Hind Quarter (9 lbs.), 8d.; Fore Quarter (9 lbs.), 6d.
BEEF.—Topside, 7d.; Silverside, 7d.; Sirloin and Ribs, 8d.
BEEF.—Suet, 4d.; Gravy Beef, 4d.; Brisket, 4d.
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| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|------------|
| Subscribed Capital | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £4,000,000 |
| Paid-up Capital | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £1,000,000 |
| Reserve Fund | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £840,000 |

This Bank grants drafts on, and transacts every description of banking business with the principal towns in Cape Colony, Natal, South African Republic, Orange Free State, Rhodesia, and East Africa. Telegraphic remittances made. Deposits received for fixed periods. Terms on application.

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CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY.

TO THE HOLDERS OF THE CERTIFICATES OF SHARES ISSUED BY THE LONDON SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all the Shares of the Central Pacific Railroad Company received by us in exchange for the Committee's Certificates have been duly deposited in accordance with the terms of the Plan and Readjustment Agreement, dated February 8th, 1899, and that the corresponding Certificates of Deposit issued by Messrs. Speyer & Co. have been taken by us in lieu thereof.

Notice is also hereby given to the Holders of the Certificates issued by the London Shareholders' Committee, that they must now present the same, without delay, at the Banking House of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., 67 Lombard Street, London, E.C., for the purpose of being exchanged for the Certificates of Deposit issued by Messrs. Speyer & Co., and they must, at the same time, make a cash payment to Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co. of £2 per Share, pursuant to the conditions of the before-mentioned Plan.

Attention is also particularly called to the announcement of the Readjustment Managers on this subject, a copy of which will be found below.

F. G. BANBURY, M.P.
JOHN B. AKROYD,
LORD ALWYNE COMPTON, M.P.
DANIEL MARKS.
JOSEPH PRICE.

Central Pacific Railroad London Shareholders' Committee.

LONDON, March 14th, 1899.

TO THE HOLDERS OF SPEYER & CO.'S CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT FOR CAPITAL STOCK OF THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY.

Pursuant to the Plan and Agreement for the Readjustment of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, dated February 8th, 1899, the undersigned hereby call for the cash payment of £2 per Share deposited to be made by depositors of said Stock pursuant to the provisions thereof.

Payment of such amount must be made on or before April 6, 1899, to the undersigned, for account of the Syndicate, at the Office of the Depositary, Messrs. Speyer & Co., 67 Broad Street, New York, or at the rate of 40/- per £1, at their Agents, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., 67 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Payments must be received for on the Certificates of Deposit by the Depositary, or Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co.

Failure to make such cash payments on or before such date will subject the deposited Stock to forfeiture to the Syndicate, as provided in the Readjustment Agreement.

Dated February 23rd, 1899.

SPEYER BROTHERS, LONDON.
SPEYER & CO., NEW YORK.
LAZ. SPEYER ELLISSEN, FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAIN.
TEIXEIRA DE MATTOS BROTHERS, AMSTERDAM.
DEUTSCHE BANK, BERLIN.

CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
READJUSTMENT.

To the HOLDERS of the following BONDS and STOCK :-

Central Pacific Railroad Company of California First Mortgage Bonds, Series A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I.
Western Pacific Railroad Company First Mortgage Bonds, Series A and B.
California and Oregon Railroad Company and Central Pacific Railroad Company, successor, First Mortgage Bonds, Series A and B.
Central Pacific Railroad Company (San Joaquin Valley Branch) First Mortgage Bonds.
Central Pacific Railroad Company Land Bonds.
Central Pacific Railroad Company Fifty-year Six per Cent. Bonds.
Central Pacific Railroad Company Fifty-year Five per Cent. Bonds.
Central Pacific Railroad Company Common Stock.

The undersigned, pursuant to the Plan and Agreement for the Readjustment of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, dated February 8th, 1899, hereby give notice that the time for further deposits of the above-named Bonds and Stock has been fixed and limited to March 23rd, 1899, after which date deposits of said Bonds and Stock will be accepted (if at all) only upon such terms and conditions as the undersigned may impose.

Copies of the Agreements with the United States and the Southern Pacific Company, as well as of the Plan and Agreement of Readjustment, and also any further information desired, may be obtained at the Offices of any of the undersigned.

SPEYER BROTHERS, LONDON.
SPEYER & CO., NEW YORK.
LAZ. SPEYER ELLISSEN, FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAIN.
TEIXEIRA DE MATTOS BROTHERS, AMSTERDAM.
DEUTSCHE BANK, BERLIN.

Dated March 1st, 1899.

MEXICAN CENTRAL RAILWAY SECURITIES COMPANY,
LIMITED.TO THE HOLDERS OF MEXICAN CENTRAL
RAILWAY FOUR PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE
BONDS.

At the request of intending depositors who have bought Bonds for the next Stock Exchange settlement, the time for deposit without penalty is extended to THURSDAY, 30th inst. inclusive, after which date Bonds will only be received on payment of a penalty of ten shillings per cent., say £1 per Bond.

By Order of the Board,
FREDK. M. SPANKIE, Secretary.

3 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C., 15th March, 1899.

Langlaage Estate and Gold Mining Company, Limited.

THE DIVIDEND at the rate of 30 per Cent. per Annum, for the Six Months ending 31 December, 1898, amounting to 3s. per Share, is now payable.

HOLDERS OF SHARE WARRANTS to BEARER must lodge Coupon No. 13 at the Office of the London Agents, ROBINSON SOUTH AFRICAN BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED, 1 Bank Buildings, Louthbury, E.C.; or with their Paris Branch, 21 bis Boulevard Haussmann.

COUPONS will be received on and after MONDAY, March 13, and must be left Three Clear Days for Examination.

BY ORDER

1 No. 1 BANK BUILDINGS, LOUTHURBY, E.C., 10 March, 1899.

THE CROWN REEF GOLD MINING CO.
LIMITED.

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

CAPITAL - - - £120,000.

In 120,000 Shares of £1 each, all issued.

Directorate :

W. H. ROGERS, *Chairman.*

R. O. GODFRAY LYS, *Managing Director.*

J. W. S. LANGERMAN (*Alternate*, N. J. Scholtz).

F. ROBINSON (*Alternate*, S. Evans).

A. GOREY (*Alternate*, A. Brakhan).

C. D. RUDD (*Alternate*, E. Birkenruth).

C. S. GOLDMANN (*Alternate*, J. G. Hamilton).

London Committee :

CHAS. RUBE. JOHN ELLIOTT. S. NEUMANN.

Secretary :

H. R. NETHERSOLE.

London Secretary :

A. MOIR.

HEAD OFFICE : CROWN REEF, JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.
LONDON TRANSFER OFFICE : 120 BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHIN, E.C.

DIRECTORS' MONTHLY REPORT

DEAR SIR.—The Directors have the pleasure of submitting the following Report on the working operations of the Company for January, 1899, which shows a total profit of £23,710 14s. 10d. :-

MINE.

Number of Feet Driven, Sunk, and Risen, exclusive of Stopes .. 399 feet.
Quartz Mined .. 30,845 tons.

Quartz on hand, at Surface, 31st January .. 612 tons.

MILL.

Number of Days (24 hours) working 120 Stamps .. 29 1/2 days.

Ton-Crushed .. 17,672 tons.

Tons Crushed per Stamp, per 24 hours .. 5,064 tons.

Yield in Smeled Gold .. 8,036 ozs. 0 dwts.

Equivalent in Fine Gold .. 6,969 240 ozs.

Yield per Ton in Fine Gold .. 7 887 dwts.

CYANIDE WORKS.

Tons Sands and Concentrates Treated .. 14,603 tons.

Yield in Smeled Gold .. 3,737 ozs. 5 dwts.

Equivalent in Fine Gold .. 3,111 423 ozs.

Yield per Ton in Fine Gold .. 4,259 dwts.

Working Cost per Ton .. 25. 8 357d.

SLIMES WORKS.

Tons Slimes Treated .. 2,544 tons.

Yield in Smeled Gold .. 357 ozs. 13 dwts.

Equivalent in Fine Gold .. 295 077 ozs.

Yield per Ton in Fine Gold .. 2,310 dwts.

Working Cost per Ton .. 35. 11 900d.

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

120 Stamp Mill and Cyanide Works - - - 17,672 Tons Milled.

EXPENDITURE.

| | Cost. | Cost per Ton. |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| To Mining Expenses .. | £6,831 16 | £6 11 1'223 |
| " Drifts and Winzes .. | 1,041 14 | 2 14 2'147 |
| " Crushing and Sorting .. | 921 6 | 0 1 0'512 |
| " Transport .. | 322 13 | 0 0 0 4'038 |
| " Milling .. | 4,166 6 | 0 0 0 0'886 |
| " Cyanide .. | 1,969 10 | 4 1 2'747 |
| " Slimes .. | 508 14 | 0 0 0 6'208 |
| " General Charges .. | 2,518 4 | 0 2 10'199 |
| " Additions to Plant .. | 536 14 | 7 0 7'299 |
| " Profit for the Month .. | £20,127 18 11 | £1 2 9'349 |
| | 23,710 14 10 | 1 6 0'015 |
| | £43,838 13 9 | £2 9 7'364 |

REVENUE.

By Gold Accounts—

6,969 240 fine ozs. from 120 Stamp Mill .. £29,022 12 9 = £6 9'396 per ton

3,111 423 fine ozs. from 120 Stamp Cy. Works .. 13,145 14 1 = 0 14 10'529

295 077 fine ozs. from 120 Stamp Slimes Works .. 1,246 14 0 = 0 1 4'931

£43,838 13 9 = £2 9 7'364

| | Value. | Value per Ton. |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------|
| By Gold Accounts— | | |
| 6,969 240 fine ozs. from 120 Stamp Mill .. | £29,022 12 9 = £6 9'396 | £1 2 9'396 per ton |
| 3,111 423 fine ozs. from 120 Stamp Cy. Works .. | 13,145 14 1 = 0 14 10'529 | £1 14 10'529 |
| 295 077 fine ozs. from 120 Stamp Slimes Works .. | 1,246 14 0 = 0 1 4'931 | £1 1 4'931 |
| £43,838 13 9 = £2 9 7'364 | | |
| 10,375 740 ozs. | | |
| 10,375 740 ozs. | £43,838 13 9 = £2 9 7'364 | |

The Tonnage mined for month was 20,845 tons,

cost .. £10,022 12 9 = £6 9'396 per ton

Drifts and Winzes Expenses cost .. 1,041 14 2

20,845 tons .. 11,064 6 11

Less quantity added to Stock .. 3,66 .. cost 100 16 6

20,449 .. 10,873 10 5

Less waste rock sorted out .. 2,777 ..

17,672 .. 10,873 10 5 = £6 12 3'671 per ton

The declared output was 12,130'90 ozs. bullion = 10,375 740 ozs. fine gold.

And the total yield per ton of fine gold on the Milled Tonnage basis was—1'742 dwts.

GENERAL.

The following are the particulars of the Head Office work done for the month :-

| | ft. | in. |
|---|-----|----------|
| 7TH LEVEL— | | |
| Driving on Main Reef Leader, West .. | .. | .. 27 0 |
| 8TH LEVEL— | | |
| Driving on South Reef, East and West .. | .. | .. 35 0 |
| Driving on Main Reef Leader, East and West .. | .. | .. 35 0 |
| Sinking Winzes .. | .. | .. 2 0 |
| 9TH LEVEL— | | |
| Driving on South Reef, East and West .. | .. | .. 85 0 |
| Driving on Main Reef Leader, East and West .. | .. | .. 82 0 |
| Sinking Winzes .. | .. | .. 109 0 |
| 10TH LEVEL— | | |
| Driving on Main Reef Leader, East and West .. | .. | .. 12 0 |
| Sinking Winzes .. | .. | .. 12 0 |
| | | 399 0 |

The tonnage of ore exposed by the above works amounts to 17,712 tons.

During the month 2,777 tons of waste rock were sorted out from the tonnage

mined. The waste rock was of an average assay value of 22 grs. per ton. The rock

sorted was equivalent to 13'580 per cent. of the total rock handled.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

H. R. NETHERSOLE, *Secretary.*

Head Office, Johannesburg, February 8, 1899.

The LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS will Open on MONDAY, the 20th March, 1899, and will Close on or before WEDNESDAY, the 22nd MARCH.

THE BRITISH NORTH BORNEO COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, under the Great Seal, dated 1st November, 1881.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - - - £2,000,000,

DIVIDED INTO 2,000,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH.

Subscribed Capital - £662,160.

Paid-up Capital - £568,052.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

RICHARD B. MARTIN, M.P., Chairman.
SIR CHARLES J. JESSEL, B.A., Vice-Chairman.
LIEUT.-GENERAL THE HON. SIR ANDREW CLARKE, R.E., G.C.M.G., C.B., C.I.E.,
EDWARD DENT.
ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE HON. SIR HENRY KEPPEL, G.C.B., D.C.L.
JOHN A. MAITLAND.
F. C. STOOP.
WILLIAM C. COWIE, Managing Director.

BANKERS.

MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED, 68 Lombard Street, London, E.C.
THE BANK OF SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH AND BRANCHES.

SOLICITORS.

HARWOOD & STEPHENSON, 31 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

PANMURE GORDON, HILL & CO., Hatton Court, Threadneedle Street, E.C.
STOOP & CO., 4 Hercules Passage, E.C.

AUDITORS.

TURQUAND, YOUNGS & CO., 41 Coleman Street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

HARINGTON G. FORBES, 15 Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.

Issue of further 350,000 Shares of £1 each, at £1 3s. Od. per Share,

Which will rank for Dividend from 1st January, 1899. Payable as follows :—

£0 2s. 6d. on Application.
£0 10s. 6d. on Allotment.
£0 10s. Od. on 15th April, 1899.
£1 3s. Od.

By virtue of the Charter and Deed of Settlement the liability of the subscribers is limited to the amount unpaid on their Shares.

PROSPECTUS.

THE BRITISH NORTH BORNEO COMPANY, incorporated by Royal Charter, possesses territorial and sovereign rights over the northern portion of the Island of Borneo, some 31,000 square miles in extent. This territory, officially known as "The State of North Borneo," is a British Protectorate, the Government of which is vested in the Court of Directors, subject, in certain respects, to the control of Her Majesty's Secretary of State. In 1890 Her Majesty's Government placed the Colony of Labuan under the administration of the Company.

There are numerous excellent harbours within the Company's territory, both on the East and the West coast. The West coast borders the highway of vessels trading between Europe, India, China and Japan, while the East coast borders that of vessels trading between China, Japan and Australia, thus connecting the island with the markets of the world.

The efforts of the Company during the early years of its existence were almost exclusively devoted to the establishment of a thoroughly organised system of Government. The expense involved was considerable, but it was essential to thus prepare the way for the introduction of independent capital for planting and other purposes. The results obtained are considered by the Court of Directors to be exceedingly satisfactory.

A number of Companies, with an aggregate capital of about £1,000,000, have already taken up land for the cultivation of tobacco and other products, but it has become necessary, in order to make the land in the interior accessible and to develop more rapidly the Company's resources, to open up the country by means of railways. The Company has already made a commencement and has built 25 miles of line, starting from the Port of Weston on the West coast.

It is intended to apply the proceeds of the present issue mainly towards the extension of the railway to Gantian and Tenom, a total distance of about 90 miles. At Gantian, the northern terminus for the proposed extension, a jetty is being built close to which the largest vessels can anchor.

Provisional arrangements have been made for constructing the 91 miles of line, and the well-known firm of contractors, Messrs. Pauling & Co., have sent out engineers to make a working survey.

The line will open up valuable tobacco and timber lands, in addition to a large acreage suitable for the growth of other products. There can be no doubt that the facilities afforded by the railway will be the means of attracting fresh capital from independent sources for the development of these lands and the industries connected therewith.

It is important to bear in mind that in 1891 a supplemental Deed of Settlement was approved by the Lords of Her Majesty's Privy Council, whereby the Court of Directors are authorised to pay dividends out of the proceeds of sales of land, provided that the value of the assets of the Company not applied in payment of dividend be not less than the amount of the paid-up capital of the Company. It will be seen, therefore, that, as the railway is extended, the sales of land along the route, both for agricultural purposes and in the townships, should alone provide funds out of which dividends can be paid.

The tobacco lands thus to be opened up are calculated at 100,000 acres at least, which, taking the present price of £12 per acre for tobacco lands, will represent an estimated minimum value to the Company of £120,000 apart from the increase in revenue from dues, &c. The cultivation of tobacco in British North Borneo is steadily progressing. In 1897, less than 3,000 acres produced 10,469 bales which realised £131,600. The value of the crop for 1898 is estimated at £200,000.

Nearly the whole territory of the Company is covered with magnificent timber, the quality of which is second to none in the world, the Australian hardwoods not

excepted. Through lack of means of transport the export of timber has so far been relatively small; but, nevertheless, it now amounts to over 1,000 tons per month. For 30 miles below Tenom the country is thickly timbered, and the working of this timber will give to the railway now projected considerable traffic. The value of the Sago exported in 1897 from the delta of the Padas river and the country which will be served by the railway, was £145,000, and the production should be greatly increased by the transport facilities which will be provided by the extension.

Oil is known to exist in North Borneo, and borings are now in progress to test its value. Workable seams of coal have been found in various districts, and the output of Labuan amounted to 42,000 tons in 1897, and is now at the rate of 1,000 tons per week.

Gold has been proved to exist in payable quantities over a large tract of the territory, and the Company has granted a concession to a Syndicate to dredge for gold in the Segama river on payment of 20 per cent. of the net profits. A dredger is now working on that river, and it is expected that satisfactory results may shortly be announced, in which case other dredgers will undoubtedly be set to work, as the stretch of river within which gold is found extends for some 150 miles.

The country enjoys a favourable climate, equable and free from extremes, and is exceptionally rich in natural products, the principal exports consisting of tobacco, timber, coffee, cacao, India rubber, gutta percha, rattans, sago, birds' nests, camphor, sage flour, rice, &c.

An important factor in the development of the country is the cheapness of labour, because, in addition to native labour, a practically inexhaustible supply of coolies can always be obtained from the neighbouring ports of China.

With the present issue of £350,000, the total nominal issued capital will be £1,012,160 and the paid-up capital £92,052, leaving the Company a reserve of unpaid capital amounting to £94,108.

For that capital the Company, which has no Mortgage or Debenture debt, will possess a country as large as Ireland, teeming with natural wealth, 115 miles of railway, 450 miles of telegraph, a revenue cruiser, jetties, wharves, Government buildings and numerous stations. In addition the Company will have substantial sums in hand for other reproductive undertakings.

During the five years ended 31st December, 1897, the imports increased from £1,116,714 to £1,897,482 (19 per cent.), the exports from £1,720,593 to £2,942,253 (65 per cent.), and the Company's revenue from £289,220 to £43,062 (51 per cent.). The revenue for 1898 is estimated, from the figures to hand, at £50,000. (The dollar is worth about 2s.)

The difference inherent in placing a colony not only on a self-supporting but on a paying basis have now been overcome. The net results have consequently shown an increase proportionate to that of the gross revenue. After deducting £10,232 for 1893, and £2,848 for 1894, the net revenue account showed a surplus of £1,061 for 1895, or £4,487 for 1896, or £5,237 for 1897. For 1898, from the figures to hand, the surplus should be, at least, £10,000, whilst for 1899 it is estimated at £16,000. Meanwhile, the administration has been so thoroughly organised that it is quite capable of coping with a large increase of the Company's business with but a comparatively small increase in the expenditure.

Out of the paid-up Capital the Company originally paid £300,000 for the concessions, and the balance at the disposal of the Company has therefore amounted to £268,052. Of this sum £178,000 has been expended up to 1893, and it is left resting to note that the Company's net revenue for the years between 1893 and 1895, as above stated, will have been obtained, whilst the capital expenditure of less than £90,000 from 1893 up to date has been incurred. This shows what good results can be achieved from the judicious expenditure of a comparatively small amount of capital when once the initial expense of organization has been met.

The Directors are of opinion that the expenditure of an additional sum of £350,000, to be matured by the railway extension, will be followed by increasingly satisfactory results, and that the construction of the railway will not only largely increase the trade returns of the country and immensely add to the intrinsic value of the Company's assets, but will allow in a year of heavy loss of dividends being paid, irrespective of land sales and the profits which may be derived from gold and petroleum.

In support of these anticipations, it is interesting to note what railway communication has done in Siam, a neighbouring state in the Malay Peninsula. In 1886, the year preceding the opening of the railway in Siam, the revenue amounted to, in round figures, £688,000, or only £159,000 more than the present revenue of British North Borneo, whereas in the following year, 1887, after the railway was opened, the revenue increased to £1,153,296. Moreover, the average annual increase from that date to the present time has been at the rate of over 250,000 dollars. In 1877 the revenue amounted to £3,628,000, or nearly six times the annual revenue on the day the railway opened. A similarly rapid development of British North Borneo may reasonably be looked for.

Arrangements have been made in regard to the present issue of capital and the construction of the railway, which are embodied in certain letters that have passed between this Company and Messrs. Emile Erlanger & Co., dated respectively the 10th, 16th, 18th, 19th, and 20th of January, 1899, and 9th and 10th March, 1899, and which letters can be seen at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors, 31 Lombard Street, London. The Company, having carried on business since 1882, has of necessity entered into various other Agreements, both in this country, in Borneo, and elsewhere; and to specify all such Agreements would be a practical impossibility, but the same nevertheless are, or may be contained within the meaning of the 38th section of the Companies Act, 1867; and accordingly applicants for Shares are to be deemed to have notice of such Contracts, and it is agreed with the Company (as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable) to waive all claims, if any, against them for not more fully complying with the requirements of the said section; and allotments will only be made upon this express condition.

Subscriptions will be received simultaneously by the following :—

Martin's Bank, Limited, 68 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

The Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh, and Branches.

Applications must be made on the accompanying Form, and be lodged with one of the above Bankers, together with a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on the number of Shares applied for.

In default of payment of any instalment at its due date, the amount or amounts previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned without deduction, and if a partial allotment is made the surplus will be applied towards the payment due on allotment.

The Company's Shares already issued are quoted on the London Stock Exchange, and application will be made in due course for a quotation of the Shares of this issue.

Prospects and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

London, 17 March, 1899.

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